

George Washington Papers, Series 3, Subseries 3D, Varick Transcripts, Letterbook 2

To DUC DE BROGLIE⁴⁸

Philadelphia, January 2, 1782.

Sir: I embrace, with very singular pleasure, an opportunity of testifying my sense of the Gallant Behaviour of the Chevalier de la Meth at the Seige of York in Virginia. It having been determined to carry two of the enemy's works by assault on the night of the 14th. of October; The Chevalier solicited and obtained leave of His Excellency the Count de Rochambeau to act as a Volunteer upon the occasion, with the French Column. He proceeded with the Advance, and, upon the point of entering the Works, received two very dangerous Wounds in his Knees with a Musket Ball. I am however happy in hearing that he is in a fair way of recovery.

If I may be allowed to form a future Judgment from present appearances, I will venture to pronounce that your brave young Kinsman will prove a most valuable Officer to his Country, and an Ornament to the Noble Family to which he is allied. I have the Honour etc.⁴⁹

48. François, Marie, Duc de Broglie, Marechal de France.

49. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To COMTE DE LAMETH⁴⁶

Philadelphia, January 2, 1782.

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Sir: Impressed with a lively sence of your Merits and wishing to give a proof of my favorable opinion of your conduct, particularly at the Seige of York, I thought I could not take a method more acceptable, than that of communicating my sentiments to your Noble Relation the Marechal Duke De Broglio, which I have taken the liberty of doing in the inclosed.

I shall be happy in hearing that you have perfectly recovered your Health and the use of your Limbs, as I am with very sincere Esteem etc.⁴⁷

***To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE**

Philadelphia, January 4, 1782.

Sir: Herewith I have the honor to send

46. Charles Malo François, Comte de Lameth, first aide-de-camp to Rochambeau. The draft is addressed to Chevalier de la Meth, and he so signs himself; but Contenson's *La Sociéété des Cincinnati de France* gives Lameth the title of comte.

47. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

your Excellly. a letter for the Chevr. De la Meth, in which is another for the Mareschall Duke de Broglie.

In giving these testimonials, I have a twofold pleasure; doing justice to the merits of a gallant young Officer, and complying with your Excellency's wishes; to do which, at all times, will afford me the highest pleasure. I have the honr. etc.

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Philadelphia, January 8, 1782.

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Sir: In my last I barely acknowledged the Rect. of your Excellency's favr. of the 18th. Decemr. I have since been honored with that of the 24th.

I am fearful that the Expresses between this place and Williamsburg are badly regulated, and I shall upon the return of the Quarter Master Genl. from the North River

endeavour to have things put in better train.

I am extremely sorry to hear of the loss of the Palace at Williamsburg by fire, and must beg your Excellency, to accept my warmest acknowledgements for your goodness in accommodating our sick who were deprived of their Hospital by the accident. My loss at Mount Vernon was not very considerable, but I was in the greatest danger of having my House and all the adjacent Buildings consumed.

I congratulate your Excellency upon the brilliant success of the French Arms under the Marquis de Bouillié at St. Aesthete and have the Honor etc.⁶⁷

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Philadelphia, January 14, 1782.

Sir: I do myself the honor to transmit your Excellency a packet which I received under a flying Seal from Sir Henry Clinton. I took the liberty to mention to Colo. Ternant that his exchange was compleated. Captains Bert and Le Brune⁸² are, I believe, at Charlottville with Colo. Armand.

67. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

82. Berth(?) and Le Brun(?).

Should your Excellency incline to exchange Lord Rawdon for any American Officer, I would wish you to insist upon his being considered of the Rank of Brigadier General. Sir

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Henry Clinton confesses he appointed him such and if my memory does not fail me he has acted in that Capacity; and instead of exchanging him by composition for some of our full Colonels, it will be more agreeable to our practice to set him against an Officer of his own Rank; in which case Brigadier Genl. Moultrie of South Carolina will be intitled to the preference. I have the honor etc.⁸³

To BARON VIOMÉNIL

Philadelphia, January 15, 1782.

Sir: I flatter myself this letter will overtake you before your departure from Virginia. It is the first opportunity I have had of acknowledging your polite favor of the 17th. of December (which only reached my Hands the 11th. instant) and of assuring you that I very sensibly feel the warmth of your expressions of esteem and regard. Believe me, Sir, sincere, when I tell you that your amiable qualities, your distinguished bravery and your zealous exertions upon every occasion have made an impression upon me which will not easily be effaced.

83. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

I hope your intended visit to France will perfectly restore your health. That your Voyage may be prosperous, and that you may have the happiness of finding your family and Friends perfectly well is the sincere Wish of Sir, etc.⁸⁴

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Philadelphia, January 16, 1782.

Sir: I have had the honor to receive your Excellencys Letter of the 8th. and can assure you nothing on my part shall be wanting to induce Congress and the States to make as great preparations as possible for a combined operation and to improve every aid His most Christian Majesty may be pleased to afford to the best advantage.

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It was with extreme Satisfaction I heard the joyful News of the birth of a Dauphine, permit me, not only to participate on the general joy which will be diffused thro France as well as every part of the United States, but also to felicitate your Excellency particularly on that happy event, and to assert, With how great esteem etc.⁸⁸

84. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

88. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To COMTE DE GRASSE

Philadelphia, February 6, 1782.

Sir: My knowledge of the goodness of your Excellency's heart, induces me, without hesitation, to request your attention to an affair which is of consequence to a particular Friend of mine, a Colonel Fitzhugh of the State of Maryland. While the common enemy were in possession of the Chesapeake, they committed great depredations upon that Gentlemans property, burning his Houses and carrying away upwards of forty of his most valuable Slaves. Five of those people, in endeavouring to make their escape from York, were taken in the Bay and put on Board the Magnanime; No person appearing, with proper authority, to claim them, they were unavoidably carried off with the Fleet to the West Indies. I take the liberty of inclosing a list of the names and a description of the persons of the Slaves. Should they be still on Board the Fleet I will take it as a very great favor if your Excellency will direct them to be sent back by any Vessel coming either to Virginia or Maryland, or should they have been sent on shore and put under the care of any particular Gentleman, you will oblige me by giving him information to whom they belong and desiring him to

Send them back to their Master, who will pay the expences of their passage.

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I have heard with infinite pleasure of your Excellency's safe arrival at Martinico, and am now impatiently waiting the result of the great operations under your direction. If the united good Wishes of a grateful people can contribute to your success, your Campaign in the West Indies will be as glorious as that in America. I have the honor etc.⁴⁶

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Philadelphia, February 9, 1782.

Sir: I have been honored with your Excellencys favors of the 12th. and 22d. ulto. the last inclosing Copies of General Greenes letter to you and your answer. After informing you, that I concur with you in opinion, that it would not be politic, at this moment, to move a detachment from your Main Body to the southward, permit me to assure you that I very sensibly feel your goodness in determining to advance

46. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

the Legion⁵⁴ as soon as possible to the Frontiers of North Carolina. I have only to request that the commanding Officer may have orders to proceed further or not as circumstances may require. The move of the Legion will be perplexing to the enemy, and as it has been heretofore the advanced Corps of your Excellency's Army, you may, I think, give out (and it will carry with it strong marks of probability) that your whole Army is to follow as soon as the weather will admit of the march; supposing the enemy should receive the reinforcement from Ireland, I do not imagine that he will, after the many severe blows he has felt from plunging himself into the Country, march to any great distance from Charlestown, especially if he considers, that, while France has a naval superiority in the West Indian or American seas, a Body of Troops might be easily thrown in between him and the Town, whereby his ruin would be inevitable.

It would certainly be our true interest, if it could be done, to give General Greene such a Force, that he should be able, under all circumstances, to keep the enemy confined to

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their posts upon the Coasts of south Carolina and Georgia: But should your excellent and valuable Body of Men be made use of for that purpose, it might possibly interfere with the plan of Campaign which we may shortly expect from your Court. Those States, whose Troops compose the southern Army, will be pressed to send forward reinforcements to General Greene as early and as expeditiously as possible.

54. Lauzun's Legion.

I am apprehensive your Excellency will think me unmindful of a most agreeable piece of duty which I have been directed to perform by Congress. It is, the presentation of two of the Field pieces taken at York, with an inscription engraved on them expressive of the occasion. I find a difficulty in getting the engraving properly executed, when it will be finished, I shall, with peculiar pleasure, put the Cannon into your possession.

In an address which I have lately received from the senate of the State of Virginia on account of the surrender of York and Gloucester, I am desired to make their most grateful acknowledgments to your Excellency and to the Officers and Men under your command for your eminent services upon that occasion and to assure you that they see with pleasure the harmony which subsists between the inhabitants of the state and their generous Allies. I take the first opportunity of making this agreeable communication.

In my letter of the 14th. of January I requested that Lord Rawdon might be exchanged for Brigadier General Moultrie of South Carolina in preference to any of the Colonels mentioned by Sir Henry Clinton, it being more conformable to our practice than to make exchanges by composition. I now take the liberty of confirming that request. I have the honor etc.⁵⁵

55. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

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Philadelphia, February 12, 1782.

Sir: In my letter to your Excellency of the 10th. of December last, I requested you to grant passports, upon the application of David Ross Esqr, for any Vessels which might be laden with Tobacco for the payment of Goods purchased of the British Merchants at York Town. It has been since suggested....⁵⁸ I have written to Mr. Ross to this effect, and should applications of the like nature be made to you through any other Channel, you will be pleased to refer them to the Secretary of Congress.

I have, since beginning this letter, received your Excellency's favor of the 30th. ulto. I am extremely obliged by your advance of provision to the British Hospital at Gloucester, which I must request you to continue untill Mr. Morris has made a Contract for their regular Supply. You will be pleased to direct an account to be kept of the Amount, and Mr. Morris will repay it either in Money or a return of a

⁵⁸. The omitted portion is practically the same as that found in Washington's letter to David Ross, Feb. 12, 1782, *ante*.

like quantity of provision, as you may chuse. This is thought better than letting the Men be dismissed upon the parole proposed by Capt. Richardson. They would certainly, upon their recovery, be immediately put into service again. It is an easy matter to detect the violation of the parole of an Officer, but almost impossible to do it in the case of soldiers, especially if they should be scattered among a variety of Corps. I most cheerfully concur in the exchange of the Convalescents captured on board the Bonetta, for an equal number of those British or Foreign now at Gloucester, and you will be pleased to take the first opportunity of carrying it into execution. I have the honor etc.⁵⁹

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Philadelphia, February 21, 1782.

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Sir: I have been honored with your Excellency's favr. of the 5th. instant. To which my Letters of the 9th. and 12th: of this month will have served for an answer.

In my letters of the 14th. of January and 9th. of February I requested the favor of your Excellency to negotiate the exchange of Brigadier General Lord Rawdon for Brig. Genl. Moultrie. I since find that Gentleman

59. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

has been exchanged by composition for Lieut. Genl. Burgoyne. I therefore now beg leave to request your Excellency to signify the same to Sir Henry Clinton and to propose the exchange of Brig. Genl. Scott of Virginia for Lord Rawdon.

I congratulate your Excellency upon the speedy and safe arrival of the Duke de Lauzun in France. I have good reason to believe that the Andromache arrived safely also, as I have answers from Spain to Letters which went by her. I have the honor etc.¹⁷

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Philadelphia, February 23, 1782.

Sir: I was yesterday honored with your Excellencys favor of the 10th. Inst. I am extremely sorry to hear of the loss of the Diligente.¹⁹ The Chevalier Clonard appears to have done every thing that could have been expected from an active and intelligent Officer.

In a former letter I expressed my approbation of the exchange of a number of the British Convalescents left at Gloucester for those taken in the Bonetta. If the 120 sent

17. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

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19. The *Diligente* was wrecked off Cape Henry. A copy of Clounard's letter to Villebrune, reporting the loss, is in the *Washington Papers* in the Library of Congress under date of Feb. 5, 1782.

away with Captain Richardson are incurables, they will be of no service to the enemy, and we are rid of an incumbrance. I must request your Excellency to order a continuance of supplies to the few that will remain, and Mr. Morris will make reimbursement.

I am extremely obliged to your Excellency for your generous donation to our Hospital at Williamsburg of which I have been informed by Lt. Colo. Mentges; who at the same time acquainted me that a Bill which he had drawn upon my Paymaster General for 50 French Crowns had been protested. This matter was unknown to me, untill the Bill had been protested and returned to Virginia. I beg you will attribute this to the true cause, which was my not being acquainted with the circumstance. It shall be paid with all charges upon it to whomsoever Mr. Tarle will be pleased to give the order.

The news which your Excellency has received from St. Thomas's is true in part. The troops under the command of the Marquis de Bouillie escorted by the Fleet of Count de Grasse landed without opposition upon the Island of St. Kitts. The inhabitants capitulated, but the Garrison retired to the strong post of Brimstone Hill, against which the Marquis was throwing up Works. By a Flag of Truce, which arrived the day before yesterday from Antiqua, we are informed that there has been an action off St. Kitts, between Count de Grasse and Admiral Hood. We have no particulars, but from the complexion of the Antigua Gazette, in which the affair is mentioned, we will hope that the Count

was fortunate.

Permit me to make my sincere acknowledgments to your Excellency for the honor you have done me in celebrating my Birth day.²⁰ You have thereby made a new addition to the Friendship and Esteem with which I have the honor etc.²¹

To COMTE DE BENIOWSKI

Philadelphia, March 18, 1782.

Sir: I am honored with your Letter of this Morning.

It would give me very great pleasure to recommend to Congress an Officer of your Rank and Abilities, could I suppose that such a recommendation would have any weight in inducing them to accept those offers of Service which you Sir so generously make to this Country; but I am sorry to say that the situation of our affairs at this time is Such that a considerable reduction has lately taken place among our old Officers by which some very valuable General Officers who have Served their Country during the whole of this Contest and who wished to remain in service, will be obliged to retire.

I sincerely lament, that your arrival in

20. "Tomorrow is Your Excellency's birthday anniversary, I propose to celebrate it, in a great ball which I give on that account."— *Rochambeau to Washington*, Feb. 10, 1782. Rochambeau's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

21. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

19. Comte Maurice Auguste de Beniowski.

America was not at an earlier period when this Country could have employed you in a manner suitable to your Rank and thereby have recd essential benefit from that Military Experience which a length of Service must have given you. I have the honor etc.20

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Philadelphia, March 19, 1782.

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Sir: I have been honored with your Excellency's favor of the 27th. ulto. Under present appearances I think General de Choissy should not move beyond Charlotte Court House. There are several reasons to induce a belief that the enemy mean to evacuate south Carolina and Georgia. If such an event is to take place we must soon know it.

I requested His Excellency the Minister of France to inform you that whenever it became necessary, I would meet you at this place. Mount Vernon, exclusive of the happiness of entertaining you at my own House, would be very agreeable to me, but I could not at the opening of the Campaign go so far from the Army.

I congratulate your Excellency upon the total surrender of the Islands of St. Kitts and Nevis, which is fully

20. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

confirmed. Montserrat must I think fall of course. I have also the pleasure to inform you that the Marquis de la Fayette and the Gentlemen who went with him all arrived safe in France after a passage of 22 days. I have the honor &c.

P.S. I set out for the Army tomorrow.28

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Head Quarters, Newburgh, April 23, 1782.

Dear Sir: I have been honored by your Excellency's Letter of the 6th instant, and thank you for the Communication of Genl Green's of the 10th. ulto.

I think he need not be much alarmed on Account of the Movement of the Legion; from the present Situation of the Enemy, I am persuaded no Reinforcements will be sent from N York to Carolina.

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I am equally impatient with Your Excellency, for Intelligence from Europe, and shall be ready to meet you, as proposed, the Moment the Occasion shall call.

Some Transports and Vessels are lately arrived at New York from Charlestown; but have brought no Troops, unless a few Remnants of some broken Corps, which were

28. In the writing of Tench Tilghman.

principally captured with Lord Cornwallis.

I can scarcely imagine the Enemy have any Intention of taking another post; in my Opinion, such an Event will be rather desirable for us than otherwise. With Sentiments of very great Regard &c.³⁸

***To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE**

Newburgh, April 25, 1782.

Sir: I have had the honor to receive your Excellency's favor of the 18th. Instt. by Count Beniowsky, and [do myself the pleasure to] congratulate you on your safe return to Philadelphia in good health.

The Plan which the Count means to offer to the consideration of Congress [appears to be projected] upon a liberal scale; and with some explanation, and perhaps alteration, [may be] well worthy of their attention. This Gentn. is fully possessed of my Sentiments on the subject of his proposals; and is at Liberty to make such use of them, [as] he thinks proper. He will have the honor of communicating them to your Excellency and of informing you, that as they involve political [as well as Military] considerations, I have confined my opinion to the military parts only, of the plan.

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38. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. From the original in the *Rochambeau Papers* in the Library of Congress.

I shall take an early occasion to address your Excellency on the subject of your other Letter of the 18th. in the meantime I pray you to be assured that, with every sentiment of the most perfect esteem etc.⁵⁰

To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

Newburgh, April 27, 1782.

Sir: I have had the Honor to receive your Excellency's Favor of the 22d instant pr Captain le Enfant.

I beg your Excellency to be assured that I feel myself happy in an Opportunity at any Time to gratify your Desires; more particularly so on the present Occasion, which I view as diffusive of the most sensible Joy to the allied Nations of France and America.

I most chearfully comply with your Excellencys Request for Capt. L'Enfant to return to Philadelphia, and to remain in that City for the Time you mention; and hope he will approve himself of great Utility to your Designs.⁵⁹

50. The letter sent, in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr., is in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang., Mems. et Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6. It varies in minor verbal details from the above draft, in which the words in brackets are in the writing of Trumbull.

59. To aid in celebrating the birth of the Dauphin.

With the highest Sentiments etc.⁶⁰

To FRANCISCO RENDON

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Head Quarters, April 27, 1782.

Sir: I take pleasure in acknowledging the Receipt of your Favor of the 18th. instant, which was presented by the Count Beniousky.

The kind concern which you express for mine and Mrs Washington's personal Safety is particularly gratefull to me, and I beg you will accept my sincerest Thanks for the obliging manner, in which you have conveyed these Sentiments.

From the prospects which are presenting to View in the West Indies, we have Reason to expect Intelligence of interesting Importance from that Quarter. And as Events which take place there, may arrive to your knowledge at an early hour, and with great certainty, I shall at all Times hold myself obliged by the Communication of such Intelligence as you shall think proper to convey. I need not to assure you, that I shall feel a very particular Satisfaction

60. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. From the original in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang. Mems. et Docs., E. U.*, vol, 6.

in any Success which shall attend the Arms of his most Catholic Majesty. With very sincere Regard etc.

P.S. Permit me, in this first letter I have had the honor of writing to you since my departure from Philadelphia, again to express my sensibility of the obligations you laid me under during my residence in that City, and to assure you, that it will ever be a first pleasure with me to acknowledge them, and upon all occasions to give you proofs of the esteem etc.⁶¹

***TO COMTE DE BENIOWSKI**

Newburgh, April 27, 1782.

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[Sir: At your request, and in consequence of a Letter from His Excellency the Chevr. De la Luzerne I have given the plan which you propose to present to Congress and of which the foregoing is a translation, all the consideration I am capable of, and beg leave to observe thereupon. That] &ca.62

61. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr; the P.S. is in that of Washington.

62. At this point the draft ends with the following N. B. in Trumbull's writing: "for the Remainder of this Letter, see mine of the 12th of April 1782 to Baron Steuben; it being the same (mutatis mutandis) as that communicatg my Sentiments on the plan of Count Beniousky, to the Baron."

To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

Head Quarters, April 28, 1782.

Sir: I am honord with your Excellencys Letter of the

20th. Inst inclosing Copy of a Letter from Count Rochambeau to you, and a Letter for Mr. de Quemy commanding the Emerald Frigate. The latter I sent immediately by Express, under cover to the Governor of Rhode Island, requesting him to send it without any delay to Mr. de Quemy.

Altho' I can hardly think that the Enemy will divide their Force and take possession of Rhode Island, I nevertheless thought it prudent to order all the Works at that place to be destroyed and accordingly Orders were sent for that purpose.

The Treasure which came in the Frigate⁶⁶ passed this place yesterday escorted by a Detachment of about 80 French Troops commanded by a Major of Royal Deux Ponts, but I am sorry to have been informed that the Effects of the Officers were sent round in two small Vessels both of which were taken.

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Mrs. Washington begs me to present to you her sincere respects. I have the honor etc.⁶⁷

66. Part of the last loan from France, about which secrecy was considered necessary, to prevent increasing the lethargy of the people toward supporting the war.

67. In the writing of Benjamin Walker. From the original in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang., Mems et Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6.

***To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE**

Newburgh, April 28, 1782.

Sir: I receive with much gratitude the remembrances, and compliments of the principal Officers of the French Army in Virginia; and thank your Excellency for the trouble of being the bearer of them to me, and the letter from Count Rochambeau.

With equal sensibility and pleasure, I received, and do now acknowledge, my obligations to your Excellency, for the communications from your Court; which, tho' not decisive, are nevertheless important. the late instance of their generous aid, hinted at by your Excellency and particularized by Mr. Morris, is one, among a variety of important considerations, which ought to bind America to France in bonds of indelible friendship and gratitude; never, I hope, to be broken asunder. Induced by that entire confidence which I repose in your Excellency, and a full conviction that a Nation, which combines her force with ours for purposes, of all others, most interesting to humanity, ought not to be deficient of any information I can give, to point objects to mean; that an accordance of them may be inseperable; I shall, without hesitation, give you the state of our present force and my ideas of the increase of it by recruits, from the best view of it which lyes before me.

It can scarcely be necessary to inform

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your Excellency, that our Military establishment for the present year consists of 4 Regts. of Artillery, 4 legionary and 2 partisan Corps, and 50 Regimts of Infantry; besides the Corps of Invalids. Or, that Congress have called, in pointed terms, upon each State to compleat its Regiments to the Establishment; the agregate of which, if complied with, would amount to 34,308 Men, exclusive of Commissioned Officers, Sergeants and Music; Hazen's Regiment and the Corps of Invalids. Of this force, 1 Legionary Corps, 2 Regiments of Artillery, and 22 of Infantry; besides Hazens Regiment and the Invalids; compose the Northern Army; but as Hazens Regiment is fostered by no State, discouraged from recruiting by all, and without funds if the case was otherwise, it must soon dwindle to nothing, being now very weak.

The *present* totallity of the rank and File, exclusive of Sergeants, of those Regiments which compose the Northern Army, amounts to 9,146; from this number the Sick Men in different branches of the Staff department, and such as are employed on other extra duties (which the peculiarity of our circumstances compells me to furnish from the Army) being deducted, will reduce the efficient operating force of these Corps to 7,553 Rank and file. and I should be uncandid if I was not to acknowledge, that I do not expect it will be encreased by Recruits, in the course of the Campaign, to more than 10,000 fit for duty in the Field. This Sir, in my opinion, will be the full amount of the established Regiments of the States East of

Pensylvania. To ascertain the number of Militia which may be assembled for occasional offensive operations, is more than I can do; the general opinion is, that there will be no want of Militia for any enterprise we can have in view. Be this as it may, this one thing is certain, that this class of Men are not only slow in their movements, but, undertaking to judge likewise of the propriety of them in point of time, will wait till the *necessity* for it, *strikes them* ; which, in most cases, is as injurious to the Service as inability or want of inclination; disappointment being the consequence of delay. This observation I could not refrain making, because in all combined operations, especially those which may depend

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upon the Season, or a limited period for their execution, it is of the utmost importance to be known.

The inclosed return, which is a copy of the last state of the force under the orders of Major Genl. Greene (which has come to my hands) will give your Excellency every information in my power respecting the State, and condition of that Army; which was to be augmented by the Partizan Corps of Colo. Armand, consisting of about 200 horse and foot. Independent of these, there are two small Regiments at Fort Pitt; one from the State of Pennsylvania, the other from Virginia, which are included in the general establishment of the Army, but no particular return is here had of them.

What measures are adopted by the States of Georgia and North and South Carolina to recruit their Regiments I know not. Virginia marched about 400 Men the latter end

of Feby. for the Southern Army; and by an Act of the Legislature, passed at their last Session; resolved to raise Men more; but in what forwardness they are, or what is to be expected from the act, I am equally uninformed. Maryland and Pennsylvania depend upon voluntary enlistments; and are proceeding very slow in the business of recruiting; especially the latter. It is impossible for me therefore to say, to what number that Army will be increased.

This Sir, is an accurate state of the force we have at present; and my expectation of what it may be, independent of Militia.

The Enemy's Force from the best information I have been able to obtain of it, may stand thus.

Rank & File.

At New York: Regulars, includg. their established corps of Provincial 9000

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Militia of the City Refugees and Independent companies 4000

Sailors and Marines, according to the numbr. of Ships which may in the Harbour; and this being uncertain, none can be affixed.

—

present strength 13,000

Charles Town 3300

Savanna 700

Canada: Including British, German and

Established Provincials 5000

Penobscot 500

Hallifax, and its Dependencies, uncertain, but say 3500

Total 26,000

The above estimate, so far as it respects New York, Charles Town and Savanna, is, I believe, to be depended upon. The force of Canada by some accounts is more, by others less than 5000; the regular British and German Troops in that Country cannot exceed 4000; but in addition to these, are the Corps of Sir Jno. Johnson and others; which I am told have been considerably encreased by the disaffected of this and other States, who have fled to Canada. but it is to be observed, that this force, be it what it may, is employed in the occupation of Posts from Quebec to Michillimakinac; and on the Lake Champlain, through an extent of not less than 7 or 800 Miles; and that, all these Posts are dependent upon the former for Provision and supplies of every kind. I am less certain of the Enemy's

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force in Nova Scotia than elsewhere. the number here given is not from recent intelligence, and may be erroneous, as their Garrisons are weakened or strengthened according to circumstances. Cumberland, Windsor, Annapolis, St. Johns River, &ca. are Posts dependent on Hallifax, and included in the 3500 Men here mentioned.

If this state of matters can be satisfactory to your Excellency or useful in the formation of any plans against

the common enemy, I shall be very happy in having given it.

Permit me now Sir, to express the high sense I have of the honor you have done me in communicating the favorable Opinion entertained of my conduct by the Court, and Nation of France; and to acknowledge my obligations to those Officers who have inspired these sentiments. To stand well in the eyes of a Nation which I view as one of the first in the World; and in the opinion of a Monarch, whom I consider as the supporter of the rights of humanity; and to whom I am personally indebted for the command he has been pleased to honor me with; is highly flattering to my vanity, at the sametime it has a first claim to all my gratitude.

It is unnecessary, I hope, to add fresh assurances of the respect and esteem with which
etc.⁶⁸

***To THE CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE**

Newburgh, May 5, 1782.

Sir: I should have done myself the honor of

68. From the original in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang., Mems. et Docs., E. U.*, vol 6.

sending the letter herewith inclosed, earlier, but having no cypher established with your Excellency I was affraid to entrust it to the care of a common Express. It now goes by

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Baron Clossen and I trust will get safe to your hands. I shall again repeat, that with much consideration and great personal attachment etc.²

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Head Quarters, May 5, 1782.

Sir: Your Excellency's favor of the 29th. of Apl. by Baron Clossen arrived at my Quarters last Evening.

If the Enemy ever had an intention to evacuate Charles Town, that Idea I believe is now given up. Great revolutions in the British Councils have lately taken place; the particulars which are brought by the March Packet, will be conveyed to you by the inclosed New York Gazette which I send for your perusal. General Robertson who has for some time been Governor of New York, is lately appointed Commander in Chief in America; this information I have from his own Letter.

Port Mahon and the whole Island of

2. From the original in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang., Mems. et Does., E. U.*, vol. 6.

Minorca is certainly surrendered to his Catholic Majestys Arms; this event is declared in N York; but I am possessed of but few particulars of the Capitulation.

My most cordial Congratulations attend your Excellency and the Officers of your Army upon the favors³ which you inform me have with so much Justice, been conferred by his most Christian Majesty. Be assured Sir I shall ever feel the most sensible interest and pleasure in every Event which bestows Honor or Emolument on such deserving Characters. The favorable mention which the King is pleased to make of me demands my warmest and most particular acknowledgments; this Honor done me will form an

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additional Tie to that indelible Gratitude, which⁴ binds me to the Person and Interests of his Majesty.†

Convinced that the [Works at Newport would be of no Use to us; and that they might be of infinite Importance to the Enemy, should they have an intention to establish a Post there; from a bare apprehension of such an Event, I have requested the Governor of R Island to have them levelled; pointg him at the same time to the Necessity of preserving and maintaing Butts Hill if possible.

The Plans for the Campaign, depending so entirely upon the Succours which will be sent by his most Christian Majesty, I can do nothing more than form Opinions upon certain Hypothesis. If we should have a Naval Superiority

3. This word in the draft is in the writing of Washington.

4. The draft has the word “already.”

and a Force sufficient to attempt N York, and you have not a secure Means of transporting your Troops by Water, for their greater Ease, to the Head of Elk, the Route you propose for their March by Land, is I am persuaded, the best that can be. It is to be feared that the manœuvre your Excellency proposes will hardly have its intended Effect, as it will be performed in so short a space, as to give no Time for its Operation before the Deception you propose would be disclosed.

If your March should take place before our intended Interview, the Time of its Commencement must be determined absolutely by your Excellency, in Consequence of Advice you shall receive from your Court and knowg the Epoch at which the Succours may be expected on this Coast; to delay it beyond this point, would waste the Campaign, and to commence at an earlier period, would disclose our plans and prepare the Enemy for our Approach.]

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Every attention consistent with my means has been bestowed [on the Boats] and I hope to be tolerably provided with them.

I shall by this Opportunity communicate your request [for militia, to Govr Harrison.] I persuade myself that knowing [how expensive the Militia are, and with what difficulty they are drawn out, you will be as moderate as possible in your Requisition; and that you will leave nothing, that can well be avoided, to their protection.] With the greatest Esteem &c.

P.S. My letter to Governor Harrison is herewith Inclosed, under a flying Seal to your Excellency's care; to be sent when you see cause.⁵

5. In the writing of Benjamin Walker; the P.S. is in that of Washington. From the original in the *Rochambeau Papers* in the Library of Congress. The parts within brackets are in cipher, and the draft, in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr., has the entire text from the † to the end of the letter marked to be put into "Mr. Morris Cypher."

On May 5 Humphreys wrote to Chaplain William Lockwood, of the First Massachusetts Brigade: "General Washington presents his Compliments to Mr. Lockwood and requests the favor of his Company at dinner on Wednesday next." The original of this is in the New York Public Library. A similar invitation was extended to Lockwood, on June 20, 1783, at the time of his retirement, and also one on an unidentified date Both of these letters are in the New York Public Library.

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Head Quarters, May 28, 1782.

Sir: I have the Honor of your Letter of the 13th of this Mo.

Since the Information I conveyed to your Excellency by the Baron Closen, the Amusement of peace held out by our Enemies has been much augmented by the Arrival of Sir Guy

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Carleton in N York, who announces himself as Commander in Chief in America, with powers of Conciliation to these States. These Ideas, pleasg as their first prospect might have been, are now I believe, beginning to be generally viewed in their proper Colours; as merely delusory and vain, and I hope will not be attended with such Consequences as the Enemy seem to flatter themselves with.

The Alliance Frigate you will hear is safe arrived in N London; a Cutter also from france, in 25 Days passage, is in at Salem; her Dispatches are gone to Congress; you will probably know their Contents as early as I shall.

Our Accounts of the Action in the W Indies between the two fleets remain very uncertain and vague. From repeated publication in N York, compared with those collected from other parts, I confess I form too many Reasons

to fear, that the Matter has not passed so favorably to our friend the Count de Grasse as you seem to imagine; a little Time will disclose the whole to us, and I sincerely hope it may dispel my Apprehensions. I am &c.13

***To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE**

Head Quarters, June 5, 1782.

Sir: I have the honor of conveying to your Excellency, the inclosed address of the Officers of the American Army under my immediate Command, on the auspicious Birth of a Dauphin.

Happy in this oppertunity of presenting to you this United testimony of respect and veneration for your royal Master, I pray you to believe, that I enjoy the highest satisfaction in having such an occasion of manifesting to your Excellency the very particular pleasure I feel in every event which affects the happiness of his Most Christian Majesty, especially

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in one which is so interesting and important to his domestic felicity, and so pleasing to his people. I have the honor etc.⁴²

13. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

42. From the original in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang., Mems. et Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6.

***To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE**

The Address of the Commander in Chief; the Generals and Other Officers of the American Army on the Banks of the Hudson

June 5, 1782.

Sir: Amid the general expression of Joy, on the auspicious birth of a Dauphin, permit us, the Officers of the American Army, to offer more than a silent approbation of these Sentiments and Congratulations, which have been presented by Congress, the representative body and sovereign power of the United States, through you, to our great and illustrious Ally, on this happy event.

There are circumstances, Sir, which render that, which in a degree is pleasing to all, peculiarly so to some; The harmony and friendship which subsisted between the Troops of your August Sovereign and us, during the last Campaign (when the only contention lay in endeavours to exceed each other in acts of emulation, and brotherly kindness), give us this preeminence.

The Blood freely offered on both sides, and which was spilt in the same Trench, and often mixed in a common stream for the support of those rights which are interesting to

the feelings of humanity, and the previledges of freemen; is such a cement to the friendship of the two Nations, as nothing, but a departure from the principles of the Union, which Heaven avert! can ever dissolve.

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Not to participate then, in the general satisfaction occasioned by an event, which adds to the felicity of a Monarch who may be viewed in the same moment as the father of his own Nation and protector of the liberties of others; and which contributes so much to the happiness of a People, to whom we are Allied in interest and Affection, would be an argument of great insensibility on our part.

That divine Providence may shed its choicest blessings upon the King of France and his Royal Consorts, and favor them with a long, happy and glorious reign. that the Dauphin may live to inherit the virtues, and the Crown of his illustrious Progenitors; that he may reign over the hearts of a happy and generous people; and be among the happiest in his Kingdom; is our sincere and fervent wish. In behalf of the Army.⁴³

***To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE**

Hd. Qrs. Newburgh, June 24, 1782.

Sir: I was in the moment of sending off a dispatch

43. The letter was signed by Washington. The address sent, in an unidentified writing and signed by Washington, is in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang., Mems. et Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6. Washington inclosed this address to the Secretary at War in a brief note (June 5) suggesting that, if the Secretary concurred "and wish to pay a particular Compliment to the Minister on this Occasion, you will be pleased to present it with Your own Hand." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

to Count de Rochambeau, of which I have the honor to inclose a Copy, when your Excellencys Letter of the 14th. Inst. arrived.

I have only to refer you to my Letter of the 28th. of April for a perfect state of matters in this Quarter; and as little alteration has taken place since that period your Excellency will readily perceive the impracticability of the movement expected by Congress (and

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mentioned in your Letter to Count de Rochambeau) especially too when you consider how unprepared we are to encounter any expence that can possibly be dispensed with.

My Ideas on *this* 57 head; The *removal* of the French Army in our present State of uncertainty; The *consequent call* of the Militia to occupy the Posts they would leave and cover the Stores, Shipping &ca. wch. must necessarily remain, and on the *general posture* of our Affairs were communicated fully to the Secretary at War when he was here with a request that he would unfold them to your Excellency as I could not commit them to Paper without a Cypher.

The Enemy, from the best intelligence I get from New York, have made no detachment; things remain there in Statu quo; they seem to be suspended, and are waiting for orders from their Court; which I hear they anxiously expect. As I am just stepping into a Boat for Albany, and dare not commit more to paper, I have only to give a fresh testimony of the respect and esteem with which etc.⁵⁸

57. This and the following italicized words are underscored in the letter sent, but not in the draft.

58. The letter sent is in the writing of Benjamin Walker and varies from the draft in capitalization and italicized words. It is in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang., Mems. et Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6.

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Head Quarters, Newburgh, June 24, 1782.

I have looked with anxious Impatience, my dear Count, for those Dispatches from your Court, the Arrival of which to you was to be the Basis of our Interview at Philadelphia. I have been in such daily Expectation of this Event that I have not ventured more than 15 Miles from this place, lest your Summons should arrive here in my Absence.

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The Season for operating in this Quarter is flying away rapidly, and I am more and more embarrassed in determining on the Measures which are proper to be pursued. If the Aids, which are designed for us by your generous Nation, are sufficiently powerful and arrive in Season to warrant the Enterprise of New-York, not a Moment should be lost in commencing your March this Way. On the other Hand, if the naval Superiority destined by his most Christian Majesty for this Coast should be late in Coming; or if when it does arrive, our Force should be judged inadequate to the Seige of New York and our Arms are to be turned against Charles-Town as the next Object of Importance, every step which the French Army under your Excellency's Command make this Way, not only serves to fatigue them; but the Baggage Teams and Artillery Horses which are provided for the Service of the Campaign would, by such a Movement, be rendered

unfit to perform a March to South Carolina; and every other Expense incident to this Manoeuvre would be needlessly increased.

In this State of Uncertainty, which may also be accompanied by unexpected Embarrassments occasioned by the late Events in the West Indies, I find myself at a loss to determine upon any Thing; and could wish our Interview to take place, even under these Circumstances, that we might, by a free Intercourse of Sentiments upon certain Hypothesis, mature Matters in such a Manner, as to facilitate any Operations to which our Force shall be adjudged competent (having regard to the Season) when the plans of your Court are announced to us.

If your Excellency approve of such a Meeting, before you receive your Dispatches, you have only to inform me of it, and I shall attend to your Time at Philadelphia, or any other place at the shortest Notice.

I am at this Moment on the point of setting out for Albany on a Visit to my posts in the Vicinity of that place. My Stay will not exceed 8, or at most ten Days, and will be shortened if any Dispatches from you should be received in the Mean Time. I have the Honor etc.⁵⁹

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59. The text is from a copy by Hodijah Baylies in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang., Mems. et Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6. The original, entirely in cipher in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr., is in the *Rochambeau Papers* in the Library of Congress.

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Head Quarters, June 24, 1782.

Dear Sir: At the moment of sending off the inclosed Letter to you of this same date; Your favor of the 8th. of this Month, which had been long on the way, came to hand.

Your Idea of not moving the French Troops, in our present state of anxious uncertainty, is quite coincident with mine; but it is left entirely to your Judgment to maintain or alter that opinion as you may find necessary on further consideration, or from any good reasons, which may occur from further intelligence or Information you may receive.

I have no reason to suppose that the news you have from the Flag Vessel of the evacuation of Charlestown and Savanna, is well founded; on the contrary I have every reason to imagine that the Enemy mean to hold what they at present possess.

If you accept the proposal of an interview, I have many things to communicate which may be unsafe to trust to paper. I am etc.⁶⁰

60. In the writing of David Cobb. From the original in the *Rochambeau Papers* in the Library of Congress.

To THE COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE FRENCH JAMAICA EXPEDITION

State of New York, June 24, 1782.

Sir: The Gentn. who will have the honor of presenting this Letter to your Excellency, is Lieut. Colo. Smith,

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an Officer in the Service of the United States of America, and lately one of my Aid de Camps.

The Certificate⁵³ which I have given him of equal date with this Letter, is a tribute justly due to his merit.

His wish to see foreign service, and desire of improving in the art of War under the auspices of your Excellency has induced him to make a tender of his services as a Volunteer at the expected invasion of Jamaica.

He will do me the favor to assure you, personally of my high respect, and ardent wishes for your success. I have the honor etc.⁵⁴

To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

Head Quarters, Newburgh, July 9, 1782.

Sir: I am much obliged to your Excellency for your two favours of the 28th. of June, and 3d. of July, which I have had the honor to receive, since my return from the frontiers of this State, where I have been in company with Governor Clinton, to visit and regulate my advanced Posts.

As the business of the Army had accumulated

53. The draft of the certificate mentioned is in the *Washington Papers*, June 24, 1782. Smith's in the writing of David Humphreys and Clarkson's in that of Hodijah Baylies.

54. The draft is in the writing of David Cobb. Practically the same letter, but much briefer, was given to Maj. Matthew Clarkson.

greatly in my absence, and as I am exceedingly occupied in making some arrangements, and putting the affairs of this Department in such train, as that I may commence my

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Journey to Philadelphia,¹ the moment I shall receive the necessary information from the Count de Rochambeau; I beg you will excuse my writing in such haste, and believe that, I am etc.

PS. Your Excellys. private letter of the 20th. of June² I also found at this place upon my return from Albany. I thank you for the Communication; the Contents shall remain with me *alone* .³

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Philadelphia, July 16, 1782.

Dear Sir: In a Letter which I have this Day received from the Secretary at War, is the followg paragraph: "When our Troops retird from York Town in Virginia, a large Quantity of Ordnance and Ordnance Stores were left for the Use of the French Troops, who were to occupy that post. As the french Troops have left Virginia, I suppose our Artillery and Stores will be no longer wanted, if they are not, I think it will be proper to remove them: for the facility of destroying them will make the Attempt an Object with the Enemy, and the Loss which will be sustained by the United States, should they be destroyed will

1. See Washington's letter to Maj. Gen. William Heath, July 11, 1782, *post*.
2. This letter informed of the possibility of the arrival of De Vaudreuil and the whole French fleet on the American coast in July or August. Luzerne's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.
3. In the writing of David Humphreys; the P.S. is in that of Washington. From the original in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang., Mems. et Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6.

be very considerable and not to be repaired this Year. As this Ordnance and Stores are in my immediate Charge I cannot satisfy myself that it will be proper to leave them there,

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unless Your Excellency should deem it necessary; in which Case I shall have no Doubt of continuing them there.”

In Consequence of the above I have to request that your Excellency will be so good as to inform me, whether those Ordnance and Stores will be of any further [essential] Use to the French Army under your Command. If not, it will certainly be of Importance to the United States that Genl Lincoln should take Measures for their [immediate] Removal. I am &c.³²

***SUBSTANCE OF A CONFERENCE BETWEEN COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU AND GENERAL WASHINGTON**

Philadelphia, July 19, 1782.

Having no data, upon which a plan of Campaign can be determined, I could only give opinions upon certain Hypothesis. These His Excellency Count De Rochambeau has had an

32. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

opportunity of examining, fully.

New York, in my judgment, has ever been, and ought to be, the primary object of our Arms. Chs. Town, for certain political considerations (wch. I have stated at large) may come in as the second. But as the first will be very difficult, if at all practicable, without a decided Naval superiority; and the second morally impossible, unless our Siege artillery, Ordnance and other heavy Stores, cou'd be transported by Water, we are reduced to the alternative of threatening New York, to prevent them from detaching; or, to Enterprise (upon the principles I have ennumerated in my statement of matters) an offensive operation, into the Bowels of Canada.

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For either of these purposes, or indeed for the better, and more effectual cover of the Country,

a junction of the two Armies on the No. River is necessary.

For these reasons it is, as the French Corps has already left their Cantonments, and proceeded to Maryland; and because Baltimore is not within supporting distance of York Town, and west point in Virginia. and too far from the Enemy's principal post of New York, to prevent detachments; that I have advised Count de Rochambeau to continue (by slow and easy movements) his March to the No. River.

It is for these reasons also, I readily assented to the propriety of removing the Artillery and Stores from York Town, and West point, and to the evacuation of those Posts.

I am perfectly in sentiment with Count de Rochambeau when he says, that our means must be competent to the end; or, that the Enterprise against Canada would recoil upon ourselves, and terminate in disgrace, perhaps in ruin.

I am also clear, that the attempt, upon my plan, must be as rapid as it is secret. In a word, that the annunciation, and the execution, should be in the same moment; or the enemy in that Country, would no longer be in a state of seperation; but be prepared to meet us with their whole force at one point. It was not my idea therefore, to announce this project till the moment of its execution. and if Count de Rochambeau had conceived himself at liberty to cooperate in this Expedition, there would have been no necessity for it. As he is not. the delay, consequent of his application to his Court,

will, in all probability, plunge us too far into the cold season, and will deprive us of the advantages which I proposed from secrecy and a sudden manœuvre.

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If such an Expedition as this, had been the ultimate project, or dernier resort of the Campaign, after our resources should have been unfolded, I should, in that case, have entreated Count de Rochambeau, and the Chevalier de la Luzerne, to have employed all their influence at the Court of France to obtain a Naval superiority, that reinforcements of Men and Means to the enemy, might be cut off from them in the Spring.³⁸

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Head Quarters, August 3, 1782.

Sir: Agreeable to my promise I now inclose to your Excellency the Route by Coriell's Ferry; the particular Stages and Distances I have noted, from which you will form your own Estimation for each Days march.

I was Yesterday favored with a Philadelphia paper of the 30th. of July, wch mentions the Arrival of 13 Ships of the Line 2 frigates and a Cat under Comd of Monr Vaudreuil at the Capes of Virginia; also the Arrival at Surrinam of 16 Dutch Ships of the Line; and their success on their

38. This document is arranged in two columns—Washington's statement on the left and Rochambeau's on the right. Rochambeau's statements are translations in the writing of Benjamin Walker. A condensation of them follows: It was Washington's desire that the French troops form a junction with the Americans on the North River in a position to threaten New York. After the junction Washington would be better able to attack the upper parts of Canada. Rochambeau must await authorization from the French court before cooperating against Canada. Extraordinary funds would be necessary to subsist the French and American Armies in Canada. Rochambeau had not the least objection to a junction of the allied armies on the North River, or to the removal of the stores from Yorktown. A duplicate of the document, also signed by Washington, with the right-hand column in the writing of Rochambeau, is in the Chateau de Rochambeau, France.

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passage against the English; how much Reliance may be placed on this Intelligence, I am in doubt. With very great Regard etc.⁷⁴

To MARQUIS DE VAUDREUIL

Head Quarters, Verplanks Point, September 4, 1782.

Sir: I do myself the honor to inform you that Signals were yesterday made at New York for the appearance of more than ten ships of the Line off the Coast. I expect every moment to hear from the look out which I have established upon the Coast of New Jersey, by which I shall be able to ascertain the size of the Fleet; I will then instantly communicate the intelligence to you. I have the honor etc.⁸⁰

To MARQUIS DE VAUDREUIL

Head Quarters, August 10, 1782.

Sir: I have the Honor to address you, at the

74. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

80. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

particular Request, and in Consequence of a Letter which I have just received from His Excellency the Count de Rochambeau, inclosing to me the Copy of a Correspondence between him and you relative to the Operations of the Fleet under your Command on the Coasts of N. America. Wherein you mention to him a Wish, that while your Fleet should remain in the Neighbourhood of Boston, you might be enabled to make a Stroke at the Enemy's post of Penobscot, and in the Discussion of which point the Count de Rochambeau has referred you to my Opinion upon that Enterprize.

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While I applaud, Sir, the generous Disposition declared in your Intentions for our Assistance, Candor requires me to be very explicit upon the Subject. I am obliged therefore to say that it is my decided Opinion, that, considering the Hazards that will attend the Enterprise, the Object is by no Means equal to the Risque that will attend the Attempt.

Among many Reasons, which influence my Mind in forming this Opinion, The great and very principal one appears from your own Letter to Count de Rochambeau, where you mention to him that you expect immediately to be followed into these Seas by a superior British Fleet. Admitting this event to take place, and that your Fleet should have proceeded to Penobscot (which is near one hundred Leagues from Boston, the only secure Harbour which you will find upon all those Eastern Shores) which lies almost at the Bottom of a deep Bay, it appears to me that your Fleet will be placed in the greatest

Hazard of being totally destroyed; for in that Situation they will be completely embayed and a brisk So. Westerly Wind, which will be most favorable for the British Fleet from New York and which would bring them into the Bay in a short Time, would be directly opposed to your Escape, so that was you to receive the earliest Intelligence of the Enemy's Fleet leaving New York, under such Circumstances, yet you could not avail yourself of the Information, and at the same Time would be placed in a position where no Harbour or Fortification could give you any protection or Shelter.

Was this Argument of Danger to His Most Christian Majesty's Ships not sufficient to govern your Mind, I could mention that the Time that must be employed on this Attempt, will probably be much greater than you seem to apprehend. A Month is as short as I should estimate, taking together all the necessary preparations and little cross Events that must probably interpose; for I have not an Idea of the Object being to be attained by a Coup de Main; as I am lately informed by good Intelligence that the Fort is the most regularly constructed and best finished of any in America, is well situated, and garrisoned by the 74th. Regiment, consisting of 800 Men, which will require a regular Siege, to be conducted

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by cautious Approaches, a considerable Addition of Men to the Number of Troops which are on Board your Fleet, with their necessary Cannon and Mortars, Stores &c. the whole of which in all probability, was the Siege to be undertaken, and your Fleet obliged to make a sudden Departure, must all be sacrificed, as their Retreat by Land (as has been heretofore experienced) would be almost totally impossible and impracticable, to be effected through a Country which is as yet a mere Wilderness of large Extent, and difficult passage.

Even supposing the best, that the Attempt should succeed and the Object be gained, I am much in Doubt, whether, without a superior naval Force, to be maintained on those Coasts we should be able to retain the post; as it would ever be subject to a renewed Attempt from the Enemy, in case we should keep up a Garrison there; or in Case of Evacuation, they might at any Time repossess the post, and continue the same Annoyance that they now give us.

Under these Considerations (without giving you any further Trouble) it is my decided Opinion that the Object in Contemplation is not of Importance, sufficient to justify the Hazards and Risques, which must probably be encountered in the Attempt to obtain it.³¹

While I offer you this Opinion, Sir, I beg you will esteem it as coming from a Heart not only candid, but at the same Time penetrated with a Sense of the highest Gratitude to you for the noble Offer of your Assistance, which it is our Misfortune, that, under present Circumstances, we are not able to avail ourselves of.

After giving you the foregoing Opinion upon

31. On July 30 Rochambeau had already written to De Vaudreuil, stating the impossibility of furnishing French troops to cooperate with him in an attempt on Penobscot. A copy of Rochambeau's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

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present Appearances, I have only to add that in Case Circumstances should turn up so differently to our present Ideas, that you should, with the Advice of General De Choissy, think the Attempt practicable, I can only refer you to the State of Massachusetts for such Aid in Men, Cannon, Mortars and Stores, as you shall judge necessary, it being the only practicable Mode in which I can co-operate with your Designs; and this Recommendation shall be most cheerfully given.

The Chevalier de la Luzerne has requested me to establish a regular Chain of Communication between my Head-Quarters and Boston, for the purpose of giving you the earliest Intelligence of every minute Circumstance that may occur respecting the Arrival or Operations of the British Fleet at New-York; and for the purpose of free Intercourse with you on any other Circumstances that may turn up. You may depend, Sir, that this Establishment shall be immediately formed; and that every Service I can possibly render you in this, or any other Way in my power, shall be most cheerfully afforded. With the purest Sentiments of Respect etc.³²

32. The text is from the copy in the writing of Hodijah Bayhes, which is initialed by Washington and is in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang., Mems. et Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6.

To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

Head Quarters, August 11, 1782.

Sir: I have been honored with your Excellency's favor of the 5th. by Monsr. de Choissy who crossed the North River, yesterday day Evening. For my opinion respecting the operation which the Marquis de Vaudreuil had in contemplation I beg leave to refer you to the inclosed Copy of my letter to that Gentleman.

Your Excellency may be assured that I undertake, with the greatest pleasure the procuring the necessary intelligence respecting the arrival &c. of any Squadron of the enemy upon this Coast, and that Monsr. Vaudreuil may have the earliest notice of such matters from

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me, and may have the means also of corresponding safely and speedily with me. I shall immediately establish a chain of Expresses between this and Boston. Your Excellency as you desire shall be made acquainted in due time with the expenses which may be incurred in procuring intelligence, and I shall not fail to make you regularly acquainted with whatever advices I may obtain thro' the different Channels which I shall open.

There does not appear to me any necessity of corresponding with the Marquis Vaudreuil in Cypher as the communications which I shall probably have occasion to make to him will be of such a nature that they will be of

no advantage to the enemy should they fall into their hands. Should any new plans be in agitation and which may require secrecy, a Cypher may be used between us.

I am sorry to hear of the accident which has deprived us of the pleasure of seeing the Duke de Lauzun and the Gentlemen who accompany him so soon as might have been expected.¹ I hope their next attempt will prove more fortunate. I have the honor etc.²

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 11, 1782.

Sir: I was yesterday honored with your Excellency's Letter by Genl de Choisey inclosing Copies of your Correspondence with the Marquis de Vaudreuil on the subject of his proposed Expedition, and requesting my opinion upon that enterprise, to be transmitted to the Marquis on his arrival at Boston.

A Copy of my Letter to the Marquis de Vaudreuil which is inclosed, will shew your Excellency my sentiments on the attempt proposed.

Genl. de Choisey who left my Quarters last evening to proceed on his Journey, did me the honor

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1. The Duc de Lauzun and others were returning to America from France, when a storm obliged them to put back to port.

2. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

to be the bearer of my Letter, which was accompanied by one to Governor Hancock, on the same subject; a Copy of which I also inclose for your observation.

I am very sorry for the appearance of sickness among your Troops, but hope, with you, that their repose at Baltimore, will be an effectual means of its removal.

We have much talk, out of New York, of a Negociation on foot in Europe, for a general pacification; how far we may rely on these reports, a little more time will be necessary to disclose. With the highest regard etc.¹²

12. In the writing of David Cobb. From the original in the *Rochambeau Papers* in the Library of Congress.

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 16, 1782.

Sir: I have been honored with your Excellency's favor of the 13th. by Mr. Louberdiere³⁷ who made so much dispatch that he delivered it last night about 11 o'Clock.

Were we certain that a pacification had advanced so far as Your Excellency thinks it has, or could we be assured that the British Ministry were really sincere in their offers which have been communicated through their Commander in Chief Sir Guy Carleton, I should think your

37. Louis François Bertrand du Pont d'Aubevoye Lauberdière, captain of Royal Normandie cavalry and aide-de-camp to Rochambeau.

Library of Congress

Excellency might without any inconvenience or danger await the Orders of your Court where you now are,³⁸ and dismiss all your Waggons; but when we consider that negotiations are sometimes set on foot merely to gain time, that there are yet no offers on the part of the Enemy for a general cessation of Hostilities, and that although their Commanders in this Country are in a manner tied down by the Resolves of their House of Commons to a defensive War only, yet they may be at liberty to transport part of their force to the West Indies; I think it highly necessary, for the good of the common cause, and especially to prevent the measure which I have last mentioned, to unite our force upon the North River: and in this opinion I am confirmed by the sentiments contained in a Letter from His Excellency the Minister of France to the Marquis de Vaudreuil, which he has been good enough to leave open for my inspection; they are as follows, "From the different accounts I can collect it seems to be the design of England to make a general Peace, but the demands on one side and the other will render a conclusion extremely difficult, and in that case, that Power will spare nothing to effectuate a peace with the United States, and turn all their efforts against us. As to a sepearte peace with the United States it will not take place. I am certain they will not make peace but in concert with us." The Minister also says to me "You will judge better than us if it is proper to march the French Army or not. It is certain that it will be necessary if the English

38. At Baltimore, Md.

shew any disposition to detach any considerable force to the West Indies." What are the intentions of the Enemy in this respect, it is impossible for me precisely to determine. Accounts out of New York, but they are not of very good authority, still continue to mention an embarkation to the West Indies. The Garrison of Savanna has arrived at New York, and there are some grounds for believing that Charlestown will be evacuated; should that event take place, and the Garrison come to New York also, they might without danger detach considerably, should our force continue divided.

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Upon the whole, Sir I hardly imagine you will think it prudent to dismiss your Carriages under present appearances and circumstances, and if you do not, the Cattle will be as easily and cheaply subsisted upon a March as in settled Camp; should an accommodation take place, and should the Orders of your Court call you from the Continent, your embarkation might be as easily made upon the Delaware or the Hudson, as upon the Chesapeake. From the foregoing therefore, I am of opinion that no good consequences can result from your remaining at Baltimore, but that many advantages may attend your marching forward and forming a junction with this Army. Actuated by no motives, but those which tend to the general good, I have taken the liberty of giving Your Excellency my sentiments with that freedom with which I am convinced you would

ever wish me to deliver them.

I beg leave to return your Excellency my thanks for the attention you have paid, not only to the exchange of Colonel Laumoy, but to several others of our Officers. I have the honor etc.³⁹

To PHILIP JOSEPH DE L'ETOMBE⁴⁴

Head Quarters, August 17, 1782.

Sir: I have received your Letter of the 10th. without Name informg the Arrival of Monsr Vaudrieul at Nantasket. Your Express who carried Letters for M D Rochambeau, was directed the safest Route to Philadelphia, and left this the 14th. at Evening. I am etc.⁴⁵

To MARQUIS DE VAUDREUIL

Head Quarters, August 27, 1782.

Sir: The Letter of which the inclosed is a Copy, is this

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39. In the writing of David Cobb. From the original in the *Rochambeau Papers* in the Library of Congress.

On August 16 Washington wrote also to Chevalier de La Luzerne, that he had forwarded Luzerne's letter to Vaudreuil by the chain of expresses to Boston. Washington's letter (as above) was sent to Luzerne to forward and "After reading it, you will be so obliging as to seal and forward it by Mr. de Loubediere, who will go on without delay." This letter is in the *Paris Archives. Aff Etrang., Meres. et Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6.

44. French consul at Boston.

45. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

Moment come to my Hand. Altho it is not perfectly authentic, yet so far as it depends on the Gentleman who gives me the Information, I am confident of his Intelligence, and therefore do not make any delay to convey this to you immediately.

Any further Information I can collect you may depend on receivg as early as possible.

I had the Honor of your Letter of the 18th⁶ and am much concerned for the Misfortune which has attended the *Magnifique* ; but hope it may not prove so fatal as your fears suggest.⁷

I am much flattered with the idea which you entertain of paying me a Visit at my Quarters. If it should be in your power, I should think myself very happy in receiving this Mark of your Respect. I am &c.⁸

6. Vaudreuil's letter of August 18 is in the *Washington Papers*.

Library of Congress

7. The *Magnifique*, a French 74, had been run aground in Boston harbor by a Boston pilot. Congress, on September 3, resolved that the *America*, a Continental 74, then building, should be presented to France, through La Luzerne, as a mark of friendship.

8. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

Head Quarters, August 28, 1782.

Sir: I have the Honor to transmit to your Excellency, Copies of the Intelligence I yesterday received from General Forman in Monmouth County New Jersey.

Altho there does not appear to be perfect Authenticity in the Acco. which respects the Arrival of the 25 Ships of the Line under Sir Saml Hood's Command, yet the probability of such an Event, gives it great credibility. The List of Ships already on the New York station, bears all the Marks of good Information.

Copies of this Intelligence were dispatched from my Quarters at 6 oClock last Evening, for the Marquis de Vaudreuil. With the highest Sentiments etc.¹⁸

18. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. From the original in the *Paris Archives Aff. Etrang., Mems. et Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6.

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Verplanks Point, September 3, 1782.

Sir: I had the pleasure to receive your Excellency's Letter of the 23d ulto. at this place, where the American Army took their Encampment on the 31st.

Library of Congress

I am perfectly satisfied with the Route your Excellency has resolved to take in marchg your Army to the North River; and wish you to pursue it in the mode that is is most agreeable to yourself.

I am glad to find you mention nothing of your Fever and Ague; I hope the Disorder has ceased its Attack upon you; [a Detachmt. of 1500 or 2000 Troops Sailed from New York, said to be for Hallifax, on] Saturday [last. I have communicated the information to the Marqs. De Vaudreuil.] With great Respect etc.⁶⁴

64. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The portion in brackets is in the writing of Washington.

To MARQUIS DE VAUDREUIL

Head Quarters, September 3, 1782, 2 OClock P.M.

Sir: The followg Information, is this Moment come to my Hand, from the best Authority Vizt "On Friday Evening the 30th. The Warwick of 50 Guns, with 5 large Transport Ships, with 1500, or 2000, Troops on Board sailed from N York Harbour bound for Hallifax; And at ten oClock the next Day, 6 Ships supposed to be the same were seen from Middle town, near Sandy Hook standg to the Eastward with the Wind at West."

I make no Delay to transmit this Intelligence, that your Excellency may judge if it is possible for you to intercept these Ships on their passage.

At the Time of the above, no Information was received of the Arrival of any British fleet from the West Indies. I am &c.⁶⁵

65. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To MARQUIS DE VAUDREUIL

Library of Congress

Head Quarters, Verplanks Point, September 4, 1782.

Sir: I do myself the honor to inform you that Signals were yesterday made at New York for the appearance

of more than ten ships of the Line off the Coast. I expect every moment to hear from the look out which I have established upon the Coast of New Jersey, by which I shall be able to ascertain the size of the Fleet; I will then instantly communicate the intelligence to you. I have the honor etc.⁸⁰

To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

Head Quarters, September 5, 1782.

Sir: I do myself the Honor to transmit to your Excellency, the substance of Intelligence which I have lately sent to the Marquis de Vaudreuil.

Vizt. On the 3d Septemr I informed him that "On Friday Evening the 30th of Augst. the Warwick of 50 Guns, with 5 large Transport Ships, with 1500 or 2000 Troops on Board, sailed from N York Harbour, bound for Halifax; and at 10 oClock the next day, six Ships, supposed to be the same, were seen from the Highlands of Middletown near Sandy Hook, standg. to the Eastward, with the Wind at West."

On the 4th. I mentioned to him "That

⁸⁰. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

Signals were Yesterday made at New York for the appearance of more than 10 ships of the line off the Coast."

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Since sendg off the foregoing I am furnished with a N York paper of the 4th. which gives the followg Intelligence, which I have extracted for your Excellency's Information; (the Paper being sent to the Marquis) Vizt.

Yesterdy arrived his Majesty's Frigate Champion of 24 Guns, Capt Thomas Wells, who proved the welcome Harbinger of a part of the British fleet from the West Indies, under the Command of the Right Hono Lord Hood.⁸⁹ The whole fleet left Jamaica on the 26th of July, protecting the annual fleet of Merchant Ships (with a strong Convoy from that Island) for Great Britain, untill they had passed the Havanna. Off the Island of Cuba, some rich spanish Vessels were taken by the British, amounting it is asserted, to a very large Sum. The whole British fleet, consisting of twenty two sail of the Line, came altogether to this Coast: but His Excelly Hugh Pigot Esqr. Admiral of the Blue, and Commander in Chief, in the Formidable, with the rest of this large royal Squadron, is at present on a Cruise, and not immediately expected in port.

From Monmouth I am just informed under the 3d Septemr. That "this Day Seven Ships of the Line and three frigates arrived". The Informant further adds, "that the Capt of a privateer which had been chased a shore by the above Ships mentions that they were part of 14 Ships of the Line besides

89. Rear Admiral Samuel Hood, of the British Navy.

Frigates." I have the Honor etc.⁹⁰

90. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. From the original in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang., Mems. et Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6.

On September 5 Washington also wrote to De Vaudreuil, sending him a copy of the letter from Gen David Forman, dated September 3, which is in the *Washington Papers*: "From that, and from the inclosed New York Paper, it would seem as if the whole of the British

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Fleet that sailed from the West Indies, were not intended to remain upon this Coast." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Head Quarters, Verplanks Point, September 10, 1782.

Sir: I had last evening the honor of receiving your Excellency's favor of the 7th. from Princetown containing the agreeable intelligence of your approach.

I have immediately forwarded your letter to Monsr. de le Tombe by our Chain of Expresses.

I have constantly kept the Marquis de Vaudreuil advised of Admiral Pigots motions, from the first information of his arrival upon these Coasts to his arrival at the Hook.

I very impatiently await the time of welcoming your Excellency upon your again forming a junction with the American Army. I have the honor etc.12

12. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

On September 10 Washington wrote to Mons. de La Tombe, forwarding a letter and thanking him for his care and zeal in transmitting letters. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

To MARQUIS DE VAUDREUIL

Head Quarters, September 16, 1782.

Sir: I have the Honor to reply to two Letters of your Excellency, one of the 9th. and the other 13th. instant; the latter of which came to my Hands last Night.

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The Circumstance of your Seamen inlisted into the Service of the United States, which is mentioned in your Letter of 9th. is contrary to Instructions already given to my Recruiting Officers. I by this Conveyance, renew my positive Orders to them to prevent in future any Mischiefs of that nature, if they

have been practised, and have given them Orders to make the strictest Search for any Recruits which may have been inlisted from the french Navy or Army; and if any are found, to have them immediately returned.

I shall have the Honor to forward your packet to the Chevr de la Luzerne by an Express which leaves my Quarters this Day for Phila. The Count de Rochambeau, who arrived with his Army on Saturday, on the opposite Side of the River to me, will receive his Letter immediately.

No Intelligence of the Movements of the British fleet in N York, has reached me, since the Information I gave of the Arrival of Admiral Pigot with his Division. I have the Honor etc.⁵⁴

54. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

Head Quarters, September 22, 1782.

Sir: I have the Honor to forward to your Excellency a Letter which I have this Moment received from the Marquis de Vaudreuil.

At the same Time I transmit you a Copy of the late Information with which I have furnished the Marquis, altho I cannot vouch for the perfect authenticity of this Intelligence, yet the Channel thro' which I obtain it, is a very good one.⁸⁸

I have constantly kept the Marquis informed of every particular I could procure relative to the marine Movements of the Enemy at N York; which have been pretty frequent; tho

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I have not tho't it necessary to transmit every Circumstance to your Excellency, as the Communication between this and Philadelphia is not so convenient or safe, as the other. With perfect Respect, etc.⁸⁹

88. This same information from Maj. Benjamin Tallmadge, under date of September 19 (in the *Washington Papers*), was forwarded to the Marquis de Vaudreuil in a brief note (September 20, draft of which is in the *Washington Papers*) and also to the President of Congress, September 22. "It is the most direct and perfect Information I have been able to obtain." This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*.

89. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. From the original in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang., Mems. et Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6.

To MARQUIS DE VAUDREUIL

Head Quarters, September 23, 1782.

Sir: I have the Honor to transmit to Your Excellency, the Substance of the latest Intelligence from N York, which I received Yesterday, and is as follows, Vizt.

Twelve Sail of the Line were to sail on the 24th. and Report says they were to take Transports under their Convoy.

Transports have been watering at every watering place from Staten Island to White Stone. Yesterday (the 21st) they were called together at new York.

Vessels were ready to carry the Refugees to Halifax. Wards4 Corps received New Cloathes and were to embark. A very hot press for Seamen in New York. With much Regard &c.

P.S. Your favor of 20th Sepr reached me in due time.⁵

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4. Capt. Thomas Ward, of the Westchester Refugees, British Provincial Troops.

5. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

Head Quarters, September 24, 1782.

Sir: Sundry Accounts from New York, having reached me, informg that the British were more than meditating an Enterprize against the squadron of the Marquis De Vaudreuil, which the Enemy have learnt are now in two Detachments, in Boston and Portsmouth Harbors; and that preparations were makg for the purpose; I have made the Marquis acquainted with this Intelligence, and the probabilities of such Event takg place.

At the same Time that I gave this Information to the french Admiral, I have written a Letter to Governor Hancock, requesting that Arrangements might be made with the Militia of his State, in such Manner, as to give immediate and effectual Support, in Aid and protection of his Most Christian Majesty's Ships, in Case an Attempt should be made upon them.

The like Information I shall give to the Governor of the State of New Hampshire, and requests similar Assistance from him, in case the Enemy should appear at Portsmouth. With the highest Respect etc.¹²

12. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. From the original in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang., Mems. et Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6.

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Head Quarters, Sunday, September 29, 1782.

Sir: I did myself the honor to call at your Excellency's Quarters this morning upon my return from an excursion as far as our old Camp at Philipsburg, but had not the pleasure of

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finding you at home. I wished to have communicated to you, personally, my observations upon the state of Forage in that Country, and the reasons which induce me to think a change of position may be attended with advantages, provided we can find means of subsisting the Horses and Cattle of the Army.

I will first make your Excellency acquainted with the situation of the Country in respect to Forage, so far as it came under my own observation. In the vicinity of the Camp at Philipsburg there is a very considerable quantity of Grass; A sufficiency, I think, for the pasturage of the draft Horses and Cattle of the Army in the day time. But I saw little or no Hay. I was informed that there were considerable quantities lower down, particularly in the neighbourhood of New Rochelle, East and West Chester and near Kingsbridge, and that crops of Oats in the lower Country had been good. Should this information prove well founded, we shall not have to draw our Forage further than we have at present

and the Roads are better.

Should it be found, that we can subsist the Horses and Cattle of the Army the following Benefits will accrue.

We shall consume that Forage which otherwise the Enemy will possess themselves of.

We shall in a great measure obstruct a very pernicious traffic which is carried on between the Country and New York. And we may either put a temporary stop to any detachments which the Enemy may be about making to the West Indies (a matter perhaps of importance while Mr. Vaudreuil is detained upon this Coast) or we may be at hand to take advantage of any opportunity which their weakened Force may afford. I will just remark that should the move be deemed practicable and eligible, I cannot be in readiness, owing to the employ of the greater part of the teams of my Army in drawing Wood to the Bank of the North River, before the latter end of this Week or the beginning of next. I have the honor etc.28

To DOCTOR JEAN FRANÇOIS COSTE⁶⁵

Head Quarters, October 7, 1782.

Sir: Your humane attention to the American

28. In the writing of Tench Tilghman. From the original in the *Rochambeau Papers* in the Library of Congress.

65. Physician General to the French Army in America.

Hospitals which were established at Williamsburg after the seige of York has been properly represented to me. I beg you to be assured, Sir, that I entertain a due sense of your kindness upon that occasion, and take this opportunity of testifying how much I think myself and the public obliged to you. I am, etc.⁶⁶

To MAJOR GENERAL BENOÎT JOSEPH DE TARLÉ

Head Quarters, October 7, 1782.

Sir: Circumstances have rendered it essential that Messrs. Wadsworth and Carter should take up the Contracts for the supply of the American Army with provision. They were the more readily induced to this, from a conviction that their engagement with us so far from being detrimental will prove beneficial to those which they are at present under for the supply of the Army of France with the same Articles. For they having now the sole direction of purchases, will have it in their power, in a manner, to regulate prices, and to prevent those advantages which individuals will ever take, when they find a number of persons bidding for the same species. Besides, these Gentlemen being bound, by their Contracts with

66. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

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us, to supply at a fixed price, will find it their interest to keep down the prices of provisions as low as possible.

It being your province, Sir, to superintend and regulate the purchases for the supply of the Army of His Most Christian Majesty in these States, Messrs. Wadsworth and Carter wish you to be convinced that the interests of His Majesty will not be affected by their engagement with us, and have therefore requested me to give you my opinion on the subject.

I think, from the reasons before mentioned, that the advantages arising from this Union of purchases are manifest, and it will make me happy to find that you agree with me in sentiment. I have the honor etc.⁶⁷

To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

Head Quarters, October 18, 1782.

Sir: I have the Honor to inclose to your Excellency a copy of an Estimate of Expences incurred by the Conveyance of Information, which I have had the honor

⁶⁷. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

at your Request to transmit to the Marquis de Vaudreuil.

It has been communicated to me from the Q Master General, who was instructed by me to institute the Chain of Expresses; and at the same Time it is intimated to me, that he shall be obliged, in a short Time to call on me for Money to defray the Expence. I have the Honor etc.¹⁷

¹⁷. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

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On October 18 Washington wrote again to La Luzerne, sending “your Excellency a packet which was this Mornng received by the Chain of Expresses, from the Marquis de Vaudrieul at Boston.” This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

On this same day (October 18) Trumbull wrote two letters to the officer commanding at Dobbs Ferry. One, granting permission for Samuel Ogden, of Booneton, N.J., to have an interview with his brother Isaac Ogden, who would come out from New York; the other, ordering the release of [Hamilton] Chalmers, formerly an adjutant in the British Army, who had resigned therefrom and wished to enlist in the French Army. These drafts of Trumbull's letters are in the *Washington Papers*.

On November 4 Washington again granted Ogden permission to see his brother, the first meeting having failed to materialize. The draft of this is in the *Washington Papers*.

To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

Head Quarters, October 25, 1782.

Sir: The inclosed Letter,⁴⁰ which I have the honor to transmit to your Excellency, was received this Moment by a flag of Truce from New York. It was accompanied by one addressed to me from the Count de Vergennes, on the same Subject.⁴¹

The Case of Capt Asgill having, before the receipt of these Letters, been submitted to Congress, I have immediately transmitted to that Hono Body, Copy of the Counts Letters to me, and have permitted myself to solicit from them, an early decision of his Fate; which, judging from my own feelings, I persuade myself cannot be an unfavorable one.

I send your Excellency a transcript of Intelligence which I have this Day forwarded to the Marquis De Vaudrieul With the Highest Respect etc.⁴²

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Library of Congress

Head Quarters, October 25, 1782.

Sir: The packet arrived at New York last Monday. Nothing has yet transpired but what is contained

40. A letter dated Oct. 25, 1782, from Sir Guy Carleton to Washington concerning payment for the maintenance of British prisoners. The original in the *Washington Papers*.

41. Vergennes's letter, dated July 29, 1782, related entirely to the Asgill case.

42. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull jr. From the original in the *Paris Archives. Aff. Etrang., Mems. et Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6.

in the inclosed Paper. I likewise inclose your Excellency an extract from the latest intelligence which I have received from New York, but you will observe that it is prior to the arrival of the Packet. Accounts by Deserters confirm the intended division of the British Fleet.

I beg the favor of your Excellency to forward the letter for the Marquis de Vaudreuil by the Chain of Expresses, and to cause the packet for the Baron Viomenil to be delivered to him.

I wish you an agreeable march and have the honor etc.

P.S. Some Naval prisoners who came up in a Flag mention the sailing of the whole of the British Fleet (except three or four Ships) in two divisions, one on Tuesday, the other on Wednesday.⁴³

To MARQUIS DE VAUDREUIL

Head Quarters, October 25, 1782.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge two favors from you, dated 10th. and 15th. Octo.

Library of Congress

43. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

I have had no Intelligence of Importance eno' to convey to your Excellency, until now: The inclosed is the Substance of what I have just received⁴⁴ thro' a very good Channel; and that part of it respectg the Division of the fleet is confirmed by the Acco. of two Deserters, from the St. Margarita, who left N York on Tuesday Morn'g last; and add that they were told one Division had gone down to the Hook in order to sail to the West Indies. I am &c.

P.S. Just at closing this Letter I am informed, that some naval prisoners, who came to Dobb's yesterday, mention that the whole British fleet (except three or four Ships) had sailed in two Divisions; One on Tuesday and the other on Wednesday.⁴⁵

44. Maj. Benjamin Tallmadge's report of October 22. It is in the *Washington Papers*

45. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Head Quarters, Newburgh, November 3, 1782.

Sir: I have been honored with your letter of the 30th. ulto. from Hartford. In my last I informed your Excellency that 14 ships of the Line and 7 Frigates had sailed the 26th. ulto from New York. I have not yet heard whether the remainder have sailed; neither have I received any intelligence respecting the evacuation of Charlestown. Your Excellency may be assured I shall give you instant information when I do.

The September Packet has arrived at New York; nothing more has transpired than what is contained

in the inclosed papers.

Library of Congress

I take the liberty of committing a number of letters to your Excellency's care; among them one for the Marquis de Vaudreuil,⁶⁵ which I beg you to forward to him. I have the honor etc.⁶⁶

To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

Head Quarters, November 6, 1782.

Sir: Your Excellency's favor of the 25th. ulto.

65. Washington's letter in Vaudreuil was dated November 5 and merely inclosed a copy of the intelligence received from Major Tallmadge on November 3. This draft and the original of Tallmadge's letter are in the *Washington Papers*.

66. In the writing of Tench Tilghman. From the original in the *Rochambeau Papers* in the Library, of Congress.

only reached me yesterday. The Treasurer of the French Army⁶⁸ has remitted 537 dollars to our Quarter Master General according to your direction.

The principal Channel, by which I have gained certain information of the motions of the enemy's Fleet, has been thro' General Forman of Monmouth in the State of New Jersey, and before I call upon him for the account of the expences which have been incurred in procuring and forwarding his intelligences, I would wish to know, whether your Excellency would have him discharge those persons who are in his employ, or keep them in pay untill the Marquis de Vaudreuil shall have sailed from Boston. Your Excellency will be pleased to observe, that the actual procurance of the intelligence will be much the least part of the expence to you, as the means, which I constantly employ for that purpose, have generally furnished me with such as you desired to be informed of; keeping up the communication with Mr. de Vaudreuil has been and will be the heaviest charge.

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There is no such Corps in America as the 75th. Regt. of Grenadiers; nor even the 75th. Regt. of Foot.

As I informed your Excellency on the 25th. ulto. that a Division of the British Fleet had fallen down, I did not again advise you that this division consisted of 14 Sail of the Line, 7 Frigates and ten or twelve Transports: But I forwarded the

68. César Louis de Baulny, principal treasurer of the French Army in America.

advice to the Admiral.

Inclosed is the substance of the latest intelligence which I have received from New York.

The letters which your Excellency committed to my care a few days ago were immediately forwarded. I have the honor etc.⁶⁹

69. In the writing of Tench Tilghman. From the original in the *Paris Archives. Aff. Etrang., Mems. et Docs., E. U., Supl. v. 4.*

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Head Quarters, November 12, 1782.

Sir: I had the honor of receiving your Excellency's letter from Bolton⁸³ in due time. The packet for the Minister of France which accompanied it was forwarded immediately.

We have no intelligence of the actual evacuation of Charlestown town, but from some circumstances which have appeared in the New York Paper of the 5th. instant, I think it probable that that event has taken place.

The moment I receive any information which may be depended on, I shall transmit it. I have the honor etc.⁸⁴

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83. Bolton, Conn.

84. In the writing of Tench Tilghman. From the original in the *Rochambeau Papers* in the Library of Congress.

To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

Head Quarters, Newburgh, November 13, 1782.

Sir: I am honored with your Excellency's letter of the 6th instant, on a subject not more distressing to you, Sir, than myself. I have at various periods of the War written to Congress and to the States, endeavouring to convince them of the necessity of passing the most rigorous Laws to prevent the Inhabitants from furnishing the Enemy with Provisions. I will write them again, and will use every argument I am master of for that purpose. In all other Nations, I believe, the persons guilty of that crime are punished with death, and without the States on this Continent will pass similar laws, I see no means of putting a stop to that destructive practice. Any thing the Military could do in that matter would be in vain; to post so many guards as would be necessary, would be destructive to the

Army, as those Guards would be continually liable to be cutt off by the Enemy, indeed the whole Army would not suffice to Guard the extensive Coasts from whence this illicit Commerce is carried on. With much esteem etc.⁸⁸

To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

Head Quarters, Newburgh, November 19, 1782.

Sir: I am honored with your Excellency's Letter of the 12th. of this month inclosing Copies of your two letters to General Carleton. It was not necessary you should apologize for sending in your dispatches by way of Elizabeth Town; under the circumstances you

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mention, there could be no impropriety in it. The moment I receiv'd the resolution of Congress in favor of Captain Asgill, I transmitted it to him, and at the same time sent him, my passport to go into New York; it will depend on him to go to Europe if he pleases, his Parole not being limited.

Tho' every account leads me to believe that Charles Town is evacuated I have not yet any thing certain on that head.⁸

I last night received intelligence that a Vessel had arrived at New York from Charles Town, with

88. In the writing of Benjamin Walker. From the original in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang., Mems et Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6.

8. On November 19 Tench Tilghman wrote to Captain Pray that his excellency wished to obtain a New York newspaper giving an account of the actual evacuation of Charleston, S. C. "If you can obtain a paper...be pleased to send it immediately up." Tilghman's draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

News of the evacuation, and that the British Troops had gone for the West Indies and the Germans for Hallifax; but this is from a quarter on which I do not put intire dependance; with very great esteem etc.

P.S. I have this moment received your Excellencys favor of the 14th.

There might have been 22 Ships of War of all kinds at New York on the 5th. but you may be assured that only 12 or 13 of them were ships of the Line. And I have reason to believe that they are very near sailing, if they are not already gone, as most of them had fallen down to the Narrows a few days ago.

A Fleet of 25 sail of Transports arrived very lately at New York from Quebec. What is remarkable, all those Ships were fitted with Births for the reception of Troops previous to

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their leaving Quebec, as I am informed by Persons who came passengers in them; and I have received advice that an embarkation began at New York, three days ago: But I have it not yet from such authority that I can vouch for the truth of it. I have communicated the foregoing to the Admiral.⁹

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Head Quarters, November 20, 1782.

Sir: I have been honored with Your Excellency's

9. In the writing of Benjamin Walker; the P.S. is in that of Tench Tilghman. From the original in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang., Mems. et Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6.

favors of the 9th. 13th and 15th. instants. We have yet no official accounts of the evacuation of Charles town, but there are a variety of reasons for believing that it has taken place.

I never could learn that any troops embarked on board the Fleet which sailed the 26th. of last Month.

By information from New York the remainder of the British Fleet are very near sailing if not already gone; most of them had fallen down to the Narrows a few days ago. A Fleet of 25 sail of Transports arrived very lately at New York from Quebec. What is remarkable, all those ships were fitted up with Births for the reception of Troops previous to their leaving Quebec, and I have just received advice that an embarkation of Troops had began at New York three days ago, but I cannot yet vouch for the truth of the last. The fitting of the transports I have from Persons who came passengers in them.

All the letters committed to my care have been forwarded. I have the honor etc.²³

To MARQUIS DE VAUDREUIL

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Head Quarters, November 20, 1782.

Sir: I have been honored with your favor

23. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

of the 14th. I shall endeavour to gain information of the several matters which you recommend to my notice, but I fear it will be difficult to ascertain them. I think you may rest assured that the Fleet which sailed the 26th. of last Month had no troops on board.

We have yet no official accounts of the evacuation of Charles town, but I am inclined to think it has taken place.

By information from New York, the remainder of the Fleet...²¹ I have the honor etc.²²

To COMTE DE VERGENNES

Head Quarters, Newburgh, State of New York, November 21, 1782.

Sir: After I had the honor of receiving your

21. The omitted portion is identical with that in Washington's letter to Comte de Rochambeau, Nov. 20, 1782, *q. v.*

22. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

Excellency's letter of the 29th. of July, I lost not a moment in transmitting it to Congress, who had then under deliberation, the proceedings of the British Court Martial upon Capt. Lippencot for the Murther of Capt. Huddy, and the other documents relating to that inhuman transaction. What would otherwise have been the determination of that Honorable Body I will not undertake to say, but I think I may venture to assure your Excellency that your general interposition had no small degree of Weight in procuring

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that decision in favor of Capt. Asgill, which he had no right to expect from the very unsatisfactory measures which had been taken by the British Commander in Chief, to atone for a crime of the blackest dye; not to be justified by the practices of War and unknown at this day amongst civilized Nations. I however flatter myself that our enemies have been brought to view this transaction in its true light and that we shall not experience a repetition of the like enormity.

Capt. Asgill has been released and is at perfect liberty to return to the Arms of an affectionate parent whose pathetic address to your Excellency could not fail of interesting every feeling heart in her behalf.

I have no right to assume any particular merit from the lenient manner in which this disagreeable affair has terminated. But I beg you to believe, Sir, that I most sincerely rejoice, not only because your humane intentions are gratified, but because the event accords with the wishes

of his Most Christian Majesty and his Royal and Amiable Consort who by their benevolence and Munificence have endeared themselves to every true American. I have the Honor etc.³⁰

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Head Quarters, November 25, 1782.

Sir: I have the honor of your Excellencys Letter

30. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

of the 22d. The Packet for the Minister was immediately forwarded.

We have yet no advices directly from Charles Town.

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I enclose your Excellency some of the latest New York, and Philadelphia Papers. After you have read them be pleased to forward them to the Admiral. By the first it appears that Lord Howe's Fleet had met with a severe gale of Wind, after they left the English Channel; and in the last there are some Reports of the surrender of Gibraltar, but not sufficiently authentic to Merit full belief.

I think it may be depended on that several British Regiments are under Orders for embarkation at New York. My accounts say four.

Your Excellency can need no assurances of the happiness I shall have in seeing you at my Quarters. I have the honor etc.⁴¹

To MARQUIS DE VAUDREUIL

Head Quarters, November 25, 1782.

Sir: You having been so kind as to inform

41. In the writing of David Humphreys. From the original in the *Rochambeau Papers* in the Library of Congress.

me that you should dispatch a Frigate for France the beginning of the next Month, I have taken the liberty of recommending the inclosed to your care.

Admiral Lord Hood commanded the division of the British fleet which sailed the 26th. of October. The remainder of the Fleet had not sailed by my last accounts from New York, but it was said they were busily preparing for it in consequence of some alarming accounts from Jamaica. My Accounts also say that four British Regiments are under orders to embark.

The Count de Rochambeau will be good enough to forward to you some of the latest New York and Philada. papers; by the first it appears that Lord Howes Fleet had met with

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a severe Gale of Wind after they left the English Channel and by the last that Gibraltar surrendered on the 17th. of Sepr. but I do not think it is to be depended on. I have the honor etc.⁴²

To MARQUIS DE VAUDREUIL

Head Quarters, November 30, 1782.

Sir: By information thro' several Channels and by the account of a very intelligent Deserter, the second

42. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

Division of the British Fleet sailed on Friday the 22d. inst. It consisted of 13 ships of the Line. The number of Frigates is not mentioned or whether any. No Troops went with this division, neither do I hear any thing more of the embarkation mentioned in my last. Admiral Digby remains at New York. His Flag is on board the Centurion and it is said there are three other ships of the Line with him. But I do not think it can be possible as the whole Fleet at New York consisted of but 26 or 27 ships of the Line. It is also said that one of those ships is shortly to sail for England. I cannot account for my not hearing from General Forman, (upon the Coast of Monmouth) respecting the sailing of this last division of the Fleet, otherwise than by supposing that he has been under the necessity of being absent, to attend upon the Legislature of New Jersey.

We have yet no official accounts from Charlestown, but I am led to believe that the evacuation took place about the 10th of this Month. I have the honor etc.⁵⁷

57. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman

To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

Newburg, December 3, 1782.

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Sir: I have the honor to transmitt your Excellency the information I have just received from General Forman; it has somehow been a long time on the road but I had before transmitted the Marquis de Vaudreuille the very same intelligence which I received by another channell, and I now send him this confirmation.

“Friday Nov. 22. The Admiral's Ship fired three Guns and the fleet got under way; there were 13 large Ships of the line, 1 of 50, 2 of 44 Guns 8 Frigates and 8 Transports; they stood to Sea with the Wind at W S W.”

By the account of a seaman who left New York after the fleet Sailed there remained with Admiral Digby the Centurion 50 Guns and the Warwick of 50 Guns with 3 or 4 frigates.

I have the honor etc.68

To MARQUIS DE VAUDREUIL

Head Quarters, December 3, 1782.

Sir: Since I had the honor of addressing you

68. In the writing of Benjamin Walker. From the original in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang, Mems. et Does., E. U.*, vol. 6.

on the 30th. ulto. I have recd. a letter from General Forman, confirming the sailing of the British Fleet on the 22d. ulto. General Formans letter had been delayed by some accident upon the Road. The following is an extract from it...69

It appears by a late New York paper that a Vessel had arrived from St. Lucia with an account that two ships of the Line and a 50 had arrived at Martinico with a number of Transports having on board 5000 Men. I have the honor etc.70

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69. The omitted portion is the same as the last half of Washington's letter to Chevalier de La Luzerne, the same date as this letter, *q. v.*

70. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Head Quarters, December 5, 1782.

Sir: I have been honored with your Excellency's favor of the 30th. ulto. I sincerely regret the disappointment of the Allies before Gibralter, more especially as it will serve to keep alive the spirits of the English.

I inclose you the Copy of a letter which I received last Night from the president of Congress. By this it appears that the evacuation of Charles town would take place as soon as the Transports returned from Augustine.

The Express which carries this will deliver you a packet from the Chevalier De La Luzerne.

I wait very impatiently your Excellency's arrival. I am never happier than when I have it in my power

to testify how sincerely I am etc.

[P.S.] By an arrival at New York from Charles town the place was not evacuated the 20th. ulto.⁸⁴

To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

Head Quarters, December 6, 1782.

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Sir: I have been honored with your Excellency's favor of the 30th. ulto. You may be assured I shall continue, agreeable to your desire, to communicate any material occurrences respecting the enemy's naval Force at New York.

I expect the Count de Rochambeau tomorrow. When I shall deliver into his hands, the packet which accompanied your Excellency's note of the 2d. inst.

Chevalier Chattellux is now here and sets out tomorrow morning for Philadelphia by the way of Bethlehem. I have the honor etc.⁸⁸

84. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

88. In the writing of Tench Tilghman. From the original in the *Paris Archives. Aff. Etrang., Mems. et Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6.

To MARQUIS DE VAUDREUIL

Head Quarters, December 7, 1782.

Sir: I am this morning favored with your Excellency's letter of the 29th which Count Rochambeau did me the honor to deliver to me on his arrival here.

I am much obliged to you for the News you did me the honor to communicate. It has not a very agreeable appearance but if it will induce the Spanish Court to act with energy against the Enemy in another quarter we may hope the most happy consequences even from this failure.

Should your departure from this Continent be so speedy as to prevent my having the pleasure of addressing you again I must entreat you to accept my sincere wishes for safety and success and to believe that it gives me great regret that during your stay I have had no Opportunity of assuring you in person of the very great respect and esteem etc.

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P.S. At the moment of closing this your Letter of the 3d. Decr. came to hand; the Packets will be forwarded immediately by express. I had before advised the Chevalier de la Luzerne of the departure of the British fleet.⁹²

92. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

To BARON DE VIOMÉENIL⁹³

Head Quarters, December 7, 1782.

Sir: The Count de Rochambeau, who arrived here this Morning did me the honor to deliver me your letter of the 29th. November.

As your destination was not public when I last had the pleasure of seeing you I could not embrace the opportunity to express to you the very great regret I felt at the prospect of our separation: I must therefore beg you to accept this testimony of that regret, as well as of the gratitude I feel in common with every virtuous Citizen, for the essential services you have assisted in rendering this Country. At the same time I must entreat you to believe that the many great and amiable Qualities which you possess have inspired me with the highest Sentiments of esteem for your Character, and that wherever you may be nothing will add to my happiness more than to hear from you and to communicate to you any thing that may occur in this part of the World worthy your Notice.

I have only now to assure you of my sincere Wishes for your safe and speedy arrival at the place of your destination and for your success and personal Glory in whatever you may undertake. With every sentiment etc.⁹⁴

93. Antone Charles du Houx. Baron de Vioménil. lie was lieutenant general and second in command to Comte de Rochambeau.

94. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To MARQUIS DE VAUDREUIL

Head Quarters, December 12, 1782.

Sir: I was honored last Evening with your letter of the 8th. The packet for the Chevr. de La Luzerne has been forwarded this Morning.

It appears by a New York paper of the 5th. that 42 sail of Transports had arrived there from Hallifax on the 3d. under Convoy of the Renown, Amphion and Cyclops.

The British seem to be drawing together a great number of Transports at New York. They must have now there, at least 150 sail. In my opinion, they are preparing for the result of the determination of the Parliament, as to the continuance of the War upon the Continent of America.

I am not without my hopes that this Winter will put an end to the War, but should events render another Campaign necessary, and it should please his Most Christian Majesty to send a Fleet to aid us in our operations, it would afford me a very singular pleasure to be assisted by an Officer of your acknowledged experience and bravery. In case of a co-operation the next Campaign, you must be sensible of the advantages which will attend the most early communication of such intention. I wish you a favorable passage and have the honor etc.³³

33. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To BARON VIOMÉNIL

Head Quarters, December 12, 1782.

Sir: The Reasons which prevented me from taking a public leave of your Excellency, operated equally against my signifying to the Army, now under your command, not only the reluctance with which I parted with them, but the grateful sense which I entertained

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of the very essential services they had rendered to America. Your destination being no longer a secret, permit me to request the favor of your Excellency to make the necessary Apologies for me: to express to both the Officers and the Men how warmly I feel myself interested in whatever concerns their honor and glory, and to assure them it is my ardent Wish that Victory may attend them wherever the orders of their Sovereign may direct their Arms.³⁴

Accept once more, my thanks for the very many polite marks of attention I have received from you, and believe me etc.³⁵

To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

Head Quarters, December 15, 1782.

Sir: I had, last Evening, the honor of receiving

34. Vioménil had written to Washington (December 13) from Boston: "Our little Army has embarked on board the fleet of Mr. the Mr. de Vaudreuil without any accident and in the greatest order but from contrary winds...I do not think the fleet will be able to sail before the of this Month." The translation of Vioménil's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

35. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

your Excellencys favor of the 11th: and immediately forwarded the Packets for the Marquis de Vaudreuil and Monsr. de L'Etombe.

I am happy to hear that your Excellency has recommended a plan for the protection of these Coasts, it will be of infinite advantage to the common interest, should effectual measures be taken to cover them from the depredations of the Enemy. I have the honor etc.⁴³

To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

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Head Quarters, Newburgh, December 24, 1782.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's Letter of the 18th of this Month with one for the Marquis de Vaudreuil which was sealed and forwarded by express immediately, and I am exceedingly obliged to your Excellency for the communication of its contents. As the Marquis informs me he should sail the 22d. I am fearfull that Baron Fuchs, who passed here the 23d in the morning will not arrive in time.

The British have a Packet arrived which left England the 3d or 4th of November, the papers published since her arrival give us nothing new, with much esteem etc.⁸⁰

43. In the writing of Tench Tilghman in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang., Mems. et Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6.

80. In the writing of Benjamin Walker. From the original in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang., Mems. et Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6.

To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

Head Quarters, December 29, 1782.

Sir: I have the honor of enclosing to Your Excellency, under a flying seal, a Letter to the Count de Rochambeau; it accompanies the Cannon presented to him by Congress; should the Count have left the Continent previous to their arrival, agreeably to his direction, I must request you will have the goodness to take charge of these Pieces, and of the Carriages which will also be sent to your Orders.

This Letter will be handed to Your Excellency by a Sergeant of Artillery,¹⁷ who has the care of transporting the Cannon, and will be responsible that they are delivered in good order at Philadelphia.

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I have the honor etc.18

***To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU**

Head Quarters, Newburgh, December 29, 1782.

Sir: It is with infinite satisfaction, I embrace the earliest opportunity of sending to Philadelphia the Cannon

17. Sergeant Smith, of the Second Continental Artillery, the draft of whose instructions, dated Dec. 29, 1782, are in the *Washington Papers*.

18. In the writing of David Humphreys. From the original in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang., Mems. et Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6.

which Congress were pleased to present to your Excellency in testimony of their Sense of the illustrious part you bore in the capture of the British Army under Lord Cornwallis at York in Virginia. The Carriages will follow by another Conveyance; but as they were not quite ready, I could not resist the pleasure, on that account, of forwarding these Pieces to Your Excellency previous to your departure, in hopes the Inscriptions and Devices as well as the Execution may be agreeable to your Wishes.

With Sentiments of perfect respect etc.

To BENOÎT JOSEPH DE TARLÉ

Head Quarters, Newburgh, February 10, 1783.

Sir: I am favored with your very polite Letter of the 1st Of Feby. and am extremely happy to hear, that His Most Christian Majesty has been pleased to permit you to continue with your Administration on this Continent, with a gracious intention (should a Peace not be

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concluded this winter) that an Event shall take place the next summer which will be equally pleasing and important to us.

In the mean time I shall be perfectly satisfied with any Arrangements respecting the place of your residence which may be agreed on between the Duke de Lauzun and yourself, and have only to add, that I am etc.⁶²

To DUC DE LAUZUN

Head Quarters, Newburgh, February 10, 1783.

Sir: It was only because I expected momentarily

62. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

the satisfaction of seeing you at my Quarters, that denied myself the pleasure of acknowledging your extremely obliging Letter of the 23 of Janry at the instant it came to hand; but since I find by your other favor of the 4th of Feby (which was duly delivered by Col McMahon⁶³ on the Evening of the 5th) that you may not perhaps arrive until fourteen days from that date; I cannot delay any longer to thank you for the repeated proofs you have given of your partiality and attachment to me, and at the same time to assure you how happy I shall be made by your presence, and with how great veneration and esteem I have the honor etc.

P. S. I had proposed to make a visit to the Posts on our Northern frontiers about this time, but shall delay the Journey until the 18th. the time affixed in your last letter for being at my Quarters. Should your arrival be postponed beyond that day, I shall hope for the pleasure of seeing you at my return, or in any moment when it can be made convenient for you.⁶⁴

To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

Head Quarters, March 19, 1783.

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Sir: I am exceedingly obliged to your Excellency,

63. Charles Laure de MacMahon, Marquis de Vianges et d'Eguilly, colonel and aide to Lauzun.

64. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

for your communication of the 15th of this month. The Articles of Treaty between America and Great Britain, as they stand in connection with a general pacification, are so very inconclusive, that I am fully in sentiment with you, that we should hold ourselves in a hostile position, prepared for either alternative, War or Peace.

I shall confer with the Duke de Lauzun on the objects you are pleased to mention, and as I have ever viewed the practice of the States, in supplying the Enemy in New York with the means of subsistence, as a very pernicious one in its Tendency, both to ourselves and our Allies, you may depend upon me to exert every measure in my power to prevent it.

I am at all times happy in receiving any intelligence from your Excellency, and should it be in your power to announce a general Peace, you cannot make a more pleasing communication to me; persuaded of the pure and benevolent intentions which animate the breast of his Most Christian Majesty, I am assured, if that happy event should not result from the present negotiation, that the failure will not rest on his part. I have the honor etc.⁴⁵

45. In the writing of Benjamin Walker. From the original in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang., Mems. et Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6.

To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

Head Quarters, March 29, 1783.

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Sir: The News of a general Peace,⁷⁵ which your Excellency has been so good as to enounce to me, has filled my Mind with inexpressible satisfaction; and permit me to add, that the Joy I feel on this great Event, is doubly enhanced by the very obliging Manner in which you have been pleased to express your Congratulations to me and to the Army, on this very happy occasion.

The part your Excellency has acted in the Cause of America, and the great and benevolent share you have taken, in the Establishment of her Independence, is deeply impressed in my Mind; and will not be effaced from my Remembrance, or that of the Citizens of America, but with the latest Hand of Time. You will accept Sir! my warmest Acknowledgments and Congratulations, with Assurances, that I shall always participate, with the sincerest pleasure, in every Event, which contributes to your happiness and Satisfaction.

The Articles of general Treaty, do not appear so favorable to France, in point of Territorial acquisition, as they do to the other powers: But, the magnanimous and disinterested Scale of Conduct which that great Nation has exhibited to the World, during this War, and at the

75. The term "general peace" does not accurately describe this news. which was the intelligence of the signing of the declarations of the suspension of hostilities Jan. 20, 1783.

Conclusion of Peace, will insure to the King and Nation, that Reputation which will be of more Consequence to them than every other Consideration.

Mrs. Washington begs your Excellency, to accept her sincerest Thanks for the Joy you have communicated to her, and to accept a Return of her Congratulations on this most happy of all Events. With the highest Sentiments of Respect etc.⁷⁶

To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

Head Quarters, April 9, 1783.

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Sir: Your Excellency's request respecting the Prisoners which you expect from N York by Way of Dobb's Ferry, has been communicated to the Intendant of our naval prisoners,³² who is at that post, and I trust Measures will be taken to give such relief and Assistance as may be needed.³³

The Letter for Capt Macarty,³⁴ was forwarded by a Gentleman going directly to Portsmouth. I have the Honor etc.³⁵

76. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. From the original in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang., Mems. et Docs., E.U.*, vol. 6.

32. Thomas Turner.

33. Benjamin Walker wrote to Turner (April 6), inclosing a copy of Luzerne's letter to Washington of March 30, and directing "a compliance with its contents by affording every possible assistance in forwarding the Prisoners to Philadelphia." Walker's draft and Luzerne's letter are in the *Washington Papers*.

34. Capt. Jean Baptiste de MacCarthy Martaigue, of the French Navy.

35. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

On April 9 Humphreys wrote to Capt. John Pray, that the Commander in Chief directs that "you send up a Cockswain and 8 of your best Oarsmen to man his Barge." Humphreys's letter is in the *Washington Papers*, indorsed by Pray with the names of the oarsmen, as follows: "Corporal Mitchell, Pease, McHinsey, Lewis, Jones, Johnson, Hendriks, James Bright, Tinker."

To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

Head Quarters, April 23,⁸⁷ 1783.

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Sir: I have been honored with your Excellency's Letter of the 10th. instant.

Congress having, by several Arrangements, given me reason to believe, that their sense of the preliminary Articles is such, that there is no doubt but they will terminate in a definitive Treaty; I cannot suppose that there will be a Necessity of the further Continuance of the French Troops in the United States. Nor can I have a Wish that those brave Men, Officers and Soldiers, who have served so nobly, and deserved so honorably from these States, should meet with One moments unnecessary Delay in their return to their native Country and Friends. But the desire of my Heart is, that they will be pleased to carry with them, an Idea of the high veneration I have conceived of their services, and the particular Attachment I shall always entertain for their Persons. With the highest Respect etc.⁸⁸

To BARON DE L'ESTRADE⁸⁹

Head Quarters, April 23, 1783.

Sir: I have received your Letter dated St. Domingo

87. The draft: is dated April 22.

88. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. From the original in the *Paris Archives, Affs. Etrang., Mems. et Does., E. U.*, vol. 6.

89. Claude, Baron de L'Estrade, lieutenant colonel of the Regiment Gatinais (after Yorktown called the Royale-Auvergne).

25th of March, requesting my Interposition with Congress, and the Ambassador from the United States at the Court of France, for your obtaining a Command in that Island.

Sensible of your merit as an Officer, and willing to Interest myself in your favor as far as circumstances will permit, I have forwarded your Memorial to Congress, and have communicated your Request and pretensions to Doctr Franklin, with a Desire that he

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will be pleased to use his Influence in France, as far as the Rules of Propriety will admit, towards obtaining for you, the Object you so earnestly wish.⁹⁰ I am &c.⁹¹

To MONSIEUR LE GRAND²

Head Quarters, April 25, 1783.

Sir: I have received your favor of the 10th. inst. And am obliged by the Expressions of Congratulation which you are pleased to make on the happy Event of a Peace.

You will pardon me, when I inform you, that I should gladly comply with your request of recommending you to the Minister of France, did I not conceive that such interposition would involve an Idea of Impropiety. For me, a stranger, to interest myself in Appointments to be made by

⁹⁰. On April 23 Washington wrote to the President of Congress, forwarding L'Estrade's memorial, and Washington's letter to Benjamin Franklin, on the matter. The letter to Congress and the baron's memorial are in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*.

⁹¹. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

2. Formerly the French consul at Boston.

another Nation, might perhaps appear officious; I am therefore obliged to decline it. At the same Time I am persuaded, that your Character and Merits are so well known to the Minister, that my Interposition in your favor, with the Chevalr. will be unnecessary. I am, &c.³

To JOHN DE NEUFVILLE

Head Quarters, April 25, 1783.

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Sir: I have been very agreeably favored with your Letter of the 25th. of february⁴ dated from Germany.

The part your States⁵ have taken in the cause of the United States of America, has inspired the Sons of the Latter with the happiest presages of a most beneficial Connection between the two Republics. Sister Republics whose similarity of Constitution, Interests and Religion bid fair to bind them together by the most lasting Ties. The Idea gives me peculiar Satisfaction; And it is the Wish of my Heart, that the Union now commencing, may be as durable as it is pleasing; nay, that, grounded in reciprocal Interest and Affection, it may be perpetual as Time.

The distinguished part you have

3. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

4. Should be February 15.

5. The United Netherlands.

taken in the great Events of the present Age, and your Affection for the Interests and Happiness of our rising Nation, will endear your Character with the Sons of American Freedom, among whom you have long been spoken of with Terms of particular Veneration and Respect.

For the Return of those worthy Characters the Baron Vander der Capellon⁶ and Pensionary Van Berkel⁷ to the affection of their Countrymen, and their former Station and Usefulness in your Republic, I most sincerely rejoice; and beg leave, with great sincerity, to participate in your Joy on that happy Event, which is a Subject of my warmest Congratulations to you.

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If in any period of my Life, I can ever be serviceable, by myself or Friends to the particular Interest of yourself or Family, you may be assured the Occasion will give me the highest satisfaction, and will be esteemed among the most fortunate Circumstances that shall ever attend me. I am &c.8

To DUC DE LAUZUN

Head Quarters, May 10, 1783.

Sir: I had not the Honor to receive your favor of the 1st. instant, until the 7th. Being at that Time at

6. Joan Derk, Baron Vander Capellen de Pol, a member of the House of Nobles of the Province of Overijssel, Holland.

7. Engelbert Francis Van Berckel, Grand Pensionary of Holland.

8. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

Orange Town on a Conference with Sir Guy Carleton, it had a circuitous Route to make before it reached me. This Circumstance you will be so good as to admit, as an Apology for my not giving you an earlier Reply.

I have now the Honor to mention to you, as I did some Time ago to the Minister of France, that viewing the Peace so near a final Conclusion, I could not hold myself justified in a desire to detain the Troops under your Command, from the Expectations of their Sovereign; or to prevent their own Wishes of a Return to their Native Country and Friends.

Nor can I omit, on this Occasion, to express to you Sir! and to all the brave Officers and Soldiers of your Corps, the high Esteem I have for them; and the Regard I shall ever

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entertain of their Services in the Cause of the United States, to whose Independence and Establishment as a Nation, they have contributed a noble share.

Your particular Services Sir! with the politeness Zeal and Attention which I have ever experienced from you, have made deep and lasting Impressions on my Mind and will serve to endear you in my Remembrance. It would have been a great satisfaction to me to have had further Opportunity to have given you, in person, these Assurances of my Regard, could your Orders have admitted your longer Continuance in the Country. But my Regret at parting with you will be somewhat softened by the flattering Hope you are pleased

to give me, that I may have the Satisfaction of embracing you again in America; where, you may be assured, I shall ever most sincerely rejoice in an Opportunity of having it in my power to convince you of the very particular Esteem and Attachment, with which I have the Honor etc.⁴³

CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

Head Quarters, May 13, 1783.

Sir: We are making some preparations in the Army for a display of our Joy on the happy event of a general peace. The Exhibition will be delayed until the arrival of the definitive Treaty; If your Excellency can make it convenient to honor us with your Company on the occasion it will be a great addition to our happiness.

I take the liberty to put under cover to your Excellency several Letters which I wish to convey to some Gentlemen of your Army late in America. If the Duke de Lauzun should have sailed before their arrival I shall be much obliged for your care of their Conveyance by some other good Opportunity. With great regard etc.⁵²

43. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

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52. From the original, in the writing of Benjamin Walker, in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang., Mems. et Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6.

To COMTE DE GRASSE

Head Quarters, May 15, 1783.

Sir: I have been most agreeably surprised and gratified by the receipt of Your Excellency's Letter of the 28th of January last, which I had the pleasure to obtain a few days ago.

The friendship which I had the Happiness to contract with you my Dear General, at our Operations in Virginia, has never been abated in my Mind, and will remain a pleasing and constant Companion of my future Life.

Whether I shall have it in my power to renew my Affection for your Excellency, by embracing you in Europe, I cannot at present declare. But should I ever have the happiness of meeting you again, either in Europe or America you may be assured I should place the event among the most fortunate Circumstances of my Life.

You will permit me to return you my warmest and most sincere Congratulations on the happy Termination of the War; an Event most favorable to America, and most glorious to the generosity and Disinterested Bravery of your Nation; by whose kind Intervention, the United States have been led by the Hand to Independence and a Station among the Nations.

Amidst the many Obligations this Country is under to the Gentlemen of the french Army and Navy, who have borne so noble a Share in our Establishment, the Part you have acted in this great Drama, will be deeply recorded on the Minds of her Sons, in Characters of undelible Gratitude and Veneration.

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Altho the 12th. of April 1782, was an unfortunate Day to your Excellency, yet it has not tarnished your Glory in the Minds of those who know your Character and have been justly informed of the Circumstances of that Day's Action. Be assured My Dear General, that my Confidence in your Bravery and Ability to Conduct so great an Army as was intrusted by the King to your Direction, is not the least abated by that untoward Event. It only proves what many a noble Hero has heretofore experienced, that Fortune is a fickle Mistress in the Distribution of her Favors; and that, like a true Coquette, she is often best pleased with giving pain to her most deserving and meritorious Gallants.

Not knowing what occasion I may have for the Originals of your Letters to me, I have caused them to be carefully copied and certified as you requested. And now do myself the Honor to transmit them to Your Excellency begging that you will be persuaded that I am with the most perfect Affection etc.⁶⁰

60. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To BARON VIOMÉNIL

Head Quarters, Hudson River, June 11, 1783.

Dear Sir: Your Congratulations on the glorious and happy Prospects of Peace, which were conveyed to me in your Letter of the 25th. of March, were exceedingly gratefull to me and met a most agreeable Welcome.

Pleasing as it is to me, My Dear Baron, at all Times to hear from you, this favor was rendered peculiarly so, by the Event which introduced this happiness: an Event, in the Attainment of which you have performed a noble Part; whereby you have contributed largely to the Establishment of this rising Empire, and to yourself have secured a lasting Fund of Glory.

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You will permit me My Dear Baron to return to you and the Brave Officers of your generous Nation, all the kind wishes you have been pleased to express for me, and to assure you and them, that the Hand of Time must bear its full Weight upon me, before the Recollection of their persons, agreeable Friendships, Merits and Services, will be obliterated from my Mind. With the warmest Attachment etc.⁵

5. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To BARON VAN DER CAPELLEN DE POL

Head Quarters, State of New York, August 2, 1783.

Sir: The very acceptable present of the patriotic Society of the City of Enkhuysen came safe to me a few Days ago?¹⁶ By this agreeable token of their respect and Regard, I feel myself highly honoured, and it was a very particular enhancement of the pleasure I felt on this occasion, that it was accompanied with a Letter from you.

I feel some pain that I cannot give that encouragement to the enlargement of this Branch of their business which that Patriotic Society seem to expect; since our Bays, Harbours and Rivers are remarkably abounding in this and the various kinds of Fish, which prove a present blessing to our People, and will probably be improved into a source of future Wealth. In other Branches however I fondly promise myself that our connexion will be enlarged into a most fruitful Scene of mutual interests and reciprocal benefits. To this happy end, my best endeavours and most friendly disposition will not be wanting.

Your Nation, Sir, and your Character in particular, have indeed merited the confidence and regard of the confederated States of America, and they will long I trust be considered with grateful veneration. The Union so happily commenced, will I hope be cultivated by both with the utmost care

16. His letter to Washington, under date of Nov. 22, 1782, is from Zwolle, Holland.

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and Attention, and I pray to Heaven, that it may be as durable as mutual Interests and reciprocal benefits can render it.

Permit me, Sir, most sincerely and cordially to rejoice with you in the reestablishment of your Honors and usefulness and to felicitate, not you only, but your Country, in whose cause you have proved yourself so noble and efficacious an Advocate, in this happy and most honourable event; An event which in my Opinion, Argues well to the future Liberties and prosperity of the republic.

May Heaven long Bless your Country with the enjoyment of her liberty, the choicest Earthly layout; and may personal happiness and domestic pleasures, ever attend your footsteps through all your future Walks of Life. I have the honour etc.¹⁷

To JOHN GABRIEL TEGELAAR

Head Quarters, New York State, August 2, 1783.

Sir: I have been honoured by the receipt of your very polite Letter, accompanied with the 6 Kegs of Herrings, which have been presented to me by the Patriotic Society of the City of Enkhuisen, which came safe to me a few Days ago, and prove very fine of their kind. For this agreeable and very honourable

17. From the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

token of respect and Regard, I beg you to present my most grateful thanks to the Society; and that you will believe that the value of this present is much enhanced by the very polite and obliging manner in which you have been pleased to convey it to me.

This Country, Sir, so highly favoured of Providence, has great reason to rejoice in the good wishes and kind assistance of the Freedom-loving Sons of your Republic; to whom we feel ourselves much indebted for their patriotic interposition in our behalf.

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May the Union, so happily commenced, between their Sister States be mutually supported 'till the latest Ages! May our Interests as our sentiments be durably connected, and may that intercourse of Friendship and commerce which we mutually promise each other, be perpetuated by reciprocal Benefits.

May Heaven, whose propitious smiles have hitherto watched over the freedom of your republic still Guard her Liberties with the most sacred protection. And while I thus regard the welfare of your Country at large, permit me to assure you, that I shall feel a very particular desire that Providence may ever smile on your private happiness and domestic pleasures. I am &c.15

15. From the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

To THE PATRIOTIC SOCIETY OF ENKHUYSEN

Head Quarters, State of New York, August 2, 1783.

Gentlemen: I find myself so happy, as to be honoured with a Letter from your *patriotic Society* of the City of Enkhuyzen accompanied with one from the Baron De Capellan de Pol, that worthy Patriot and warm friend of the Liberties of mankind in general and in particular of your and our republican States, whose name has been long known and revered in this Country.

With these Letters came the Six Kegs of Herring, with which your Society have been pleased to honour me, a very grateful and acceptable present. I beg you, Gentlemen, to be persuaded that I receive this token of your Respect, with the highest gratification; and beg that you will favour me by presenting, in the warmest manner, my most respectful thanks to your right worthy and honourable Society for this mark of their Esteem and distinction, informing them, that it is the wish of my Heart, that the happy Union which has been effected between the two Sister Republic's may be perfectly cemented by the Ties of Interest and affection to the latest time although this particular Branch of business may

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not perhaps meet with that enlargement from this Country, which your Society may expect (our Rivers and coasts almost every where abounding with this and other kinds of valuable fish) yet other Branches of intercourse between the two Countries

will undoubtedly take place, which will mutually contribute to the Interests of both. In this and in every other thing which may be useful to the benefit of your Society and Republic they may depend on my good disposition; and may Heaven, from the Stores of her Bounty, kindly shower on your Country, your City, and your persons, all those blessings which you so obligingly express for my Country and for me. I am &c.²¹

21. From the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

To DU BOIS DE L'AMOLIGNIÈRE⁵⁵

Rocky Hill, State of New Jersey, October 1, 1783.

Sir: I have had the honor to receive your Letter of the 27 July⁵⁶ and the Discourse which accompanied *it* and I beg you Sir to accept my thanks as well for this mark of your attention as for the pleasure I have received from the perusal of your performance.

The interest you take in the future happiness of this Republic, claims the gratitude of every American, and I am persuaded that all, to whom your discourse shall be communicated, will join me in that esteem with which, I have the honor, etc.⁵⁷

To MONSIEUR GUENIOT⁵⁸

Rocky Hill, State of New Jersey, October 1, 1783.

Sir: A few days since I had the honor to receive your Letter of the 19th April last, with the Ode which accompanied it.⁵⁹

55. Councillor of the Superior Council at Port au Prince, Haiti.

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56. Not now found in the *Washington Papers*, but a translation of it by Walker, under date of July 27, 1783, is indorsed by him, "With a book," presumably the "Discourse," copies of which seem to have been also sent to John Hancock and Charles Thomson.

On October 1 Washington wrote to Sivetau de Lepinay in Philadelphia a brief note of thanks for forwarding L'Amolignière's letter and Discourse. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

57. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

58. A physician in Avalon in Burgundy, France.

59. Not now found in the *Washington Papers*, but a translation in the writing of Walker is filed with the ode under date of Apr. 19, 1783. The ode consists of 4 lines only.

The glorious Acts of Louis XVI is a theme so agreeable to every true American, that you will easily conceive the pleasure I received from the perusal of your elegant little Ode on that subject.

I beg you, Sir, to be persuaded, how sensible I am of this mark of your regard, and of the esteem with which I have the honor, etc.⁶⁰

To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

Rocky Hill, November 6, 1783.

Sir: Lieutenant Colonel Villefranche and Major Rochefontaine, late of the Corps of Engineers, having quitted the service of the United States, and being about to return to France, have requested me to signify to your Excellency my opinion of their services in this Country.

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The Zeal, Activity, and knowledge of their profession, which have been conspicuous in the conduct of these Gentlemen, could not but gain my entire approbation, and the pleasure of doing them this justice, is greatly increased by the opportunity it affords me of repeating to your Excellency the sincere respect etc.⁴⁴

60. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

44. In the writing of Benjamin Walker. From the original in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang., Mems. et Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6.

To BARBÉ-MARBOIS

Rocky Hill, November 7, 1783.

Sir: Mr. Frondeville President of the Parliament of Normandy has transmitted me the inclosed Letter, with a desire that I would convey it to Mr. Lambert. I have some reason to suppose that Gentlemen to be at Philadelphia, and shall be much obliged to you to inform me whether I may assure Mr. frondeville of the letter being delivered to its address. With much regard etc.⁴⁹

To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

West Point, November 17, 1783.

Sir: I have received a Letter from Sir Guy Carleton dated the 12th. inst. at New York, of which the following is an extract.

The preparations for withdrawing his Majesties Troops from this place are so far advanced,

49. In the writing of Benjamin Walker. From the original in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang., Mems. et Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6.

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that, unless some untoward accident should intervene I hope it may be accomplished some days before the end of the Month; in all events, I propose to relinquish Posts at King's Bridge and as far as McGowan's pass inclusive on this Island, on the 21st instant; to resign the possession of Herricks and Hempstead with all to the Eastward on Long Island on the same day; to give up this City with Brooklyn, if possible on the day following; and Paulus Hook, Denyces, and Staten Island, as soon after as may be practicable.

This intelligence I considered of so interesting a nature that I could not resist the pleasure of communicating it to your Excellency, and of taking the opportunity to subscribe myself with the most perfect consideration etc.⁶⁸

68. In the writing of David Humphreys. From the original in the *Paris Archives, Aft. Etrang., Mems. et Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6.

This same letter was sent to Peter John van Berckel.

To MARQUIS DE FRONDEVILLE⁷⁶

West Point, November 18, 1783.

Sir: I had not the pleasure to receive your Letter of the 15 May untill the 7th. of this Month, and the same day I transmitted the Letter for Mr. Lambert to the Consull General of France to deliver to that Gentleman who I understood was then in Philadelphia; but by the inclosed answer of Mr. Marbois it seems Mr. Lambert had already left this Country, the Letter is therefore inclosed.

It was unfortunate for Mr Lambert that he arrived at a time when all Military Operations were about to cease, had this not been the case I should have been happy in paying every attention to the Recommendations he brought, and rendering him every service in my power. I have the honor, etc.⁷⁷

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76. President of the Parliament of Normandy, France.

77. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.